

STRIKE THREE But who's out?

The reasons for the recent action taken by the ANU Union staff in its current dispute with the Union Board of Management have to some extent been misrepresented on campus. Conflict has arisen due to the current management policies of the Board under the chairmanship of Mr Bob Wheeldon, in collusion with Mr Tony Senti.

A series of rolling strikes designed to notify members rather than inconvenience them was instituted during the past two weeks. The strike action has now ceased as the matter was put before Arbitration.

The issues involved have not been well publicised. Although such things as the meal allowance (inadequacy thereof) are thought to be important, they are not the major reasons for the strike action despite Mr Wheeldon's belief to the contrary. The actual issues which precipitated the action by the staff were those of privatisation and staff representation on the Union Board.

The current Board's management policies are directed towards attaining that heavenly state of corporate mindlessness called 'efficiency'. To achieve this 'efficiency' the Board supports privatisation of certain services within the Union. For example, an invitation to tender for cleaning contracts was advertised recently in The Canberra Times. At the same time K-Block and Knotholes have been threatened with privatisation if they can't reach a satisfactory level of 'efficiency' within 5 months. This would tend to suggest that the Board is dissatisfied with its own area of responsibility i.e. the current management of these areas.

The staff see the consequences of privatisation as follows. Firstly, the loss of jobs. The question of employment is for obvious reasons an important one for the staff. It is also relevant to students who make up no small percentage of workers employed by the Union. Mr Wheeldon, speaking for the Board, told us that while he had no desire to control staffing matters personally, he believed that the Union should only hire those who were the best for the job viz-a-viz, those who were the most 'efficient'. Taking this in context it would seem that the most 'efficient' workers would not include students who by the nature of their status could only work part-time and would also require time off for exams. Mr Wheeldon claims to want what is best for the

Union members and that this is best achieved through an 'efficient' corporate structure. However the question remains as to whether the union should only provide services to its members or whether it should also provide them with accessible and well-paid employment. It is an unfortunate fact that some students do require a little extra money to support themselves while they study. The staff also fear the possibility of a snowball effect. If cleaning, K-Block and Knotholes are leased out to private enterprise, what is to stop the areas of catering and the Union shop also being farmed out. There is already provision for a privately run icecream parlour, hairdresser, bakery and optometrist.

Whether or not privatisation of Union services will prove more 'efficient' is in itself a moot point. The university is a fairly autonomous community and, as far as the union is concerned members can only spend what money they have. This basic constraint upon its profitability will remain whether or not K-Block and Knotholes stay as they are or are leased out. It is all just a question of INCENTIVATION.

The other major cause of the dispute is the Board's policy to dispense with the two positions on the Board reserved for staff members, one such position having already been abolished. Mr Wheeldon — again speaking for the Board stated that mere employees have no right to sit with the decision-making body of the company. The Board does not however intend to abolish staff representation on the various other union committees. One further point of contention is the Board's plan to refurbish the union building. One staff member described the entire refurbishment plan as 'moving upstairs so as to create room enough for an icecream parlour, a hairdresser and an optometrist'.

Such development is going to cost union members \$1.5 million (which must in turn eventually lead to an increase in the General Services Fee). Will this make the union more 'efficient'. The staff think not. Moreover some believe that it could send the establishment bankrupt within two years. Mr Wheeldon on the other hand believes that this will not be the case. He quoted the example of the Union Shop several years ago. It had a large increase in sales which he puts down to the new carpet which was installed. Such logic is unquestionable.

No matter who is right or wrong in this dispute it cannot be said that the staff don't have a valid claim. Both sides say that they were amenable to negotiation however somewhere negotiations broke down. Nevertheless the manner in which the staff have carried out their action shows that they have attempted to minimise the inconvenience to members. The fact that they did not go on strike for the 'Mentals' concert — where they could have caused the greatest inconvenience proves this. The staff despite the apparent threat to their jobs and status have at all times acted reasonably and with common-sense.

In fairness to Mr Wheeldon he has said that he knew nothing of the aforementioned advertisement in The Canberra Times. He stated that Mr Senti did this on his own initiative without consulting the Board. It has been suggested that Mr Senti placed this advertisement to purposely incite the staff to go on strike the night of the 'Mentals' concert. (Is this efficacy or politics? — think about it).

Nevertheless it does raise the question as to whether Mr Wheeldon as Chairman of the Board has control over the secretary.

During this dispute between board and staff, students have been called upon for support by the staff; staff claiming that not only is staff representation on the board threatened, but that student representation is also to be reduced. It is claimed that a proposal by the board is to be put to a meeting in the coming weeks discussing the reduction of student reps from 10 to 6. Mr Wheeldon denies knowledge of any such proposal and says he would in fact not give support to such a proposal.

The matter is now with the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. Staff conditions have temporarily been reverted to those existing at the beginning of 1987 and staff are hopeful of winning most if not all their demands. It is another case of *Economists v. Human Beings*. Only time will tell.

Simon Finch
Nicola Phillips

There are many other issues surrounding your Union. The Board of Management that ANU students overwhelmingly elected in last year's elections has obtained a \$1.5 m financial package to refurbish the Union. Turn to pages 18 and 19 for the new Union plans.

FORESHADOWED MOTION WHICH BECAME SUBSTANTIVE MOTION AT THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1st APRIL, 1987.

THAT THIS SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING ON APRIL 1st ENDORSES FULLY AND EXPRESSES TOTAL CONFIDENCE IN KATE ANDREWS IN HER POSITION AS THE DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

FURTHERMORE, THIS MEETING EXPRESSES ITS DISMAY AT THE PROPONENTS OF THE "NO CONFIDENCE" MOTION AND DEMANDS THAT MOVER AND SECONDER ISSUE A FORMAL APOLOGY TO KATE AND THE WHOLE STUDENT BODY, IN WRITING, TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT WORONI, PROMINENTLY ON PAGE 1.

The above motion was passed overwhelmingly by the estimated 500 students attending the meeting. Seven wished to have their dissent recorded.

Space was reserved on this page for an apology,
by Peter Phelps and Stuart Carrail,
The apology was never received

EDITORIAL

Woroni is a paper for all students on campus. As a result, there are many claims laid to its space each week by dozens of groups and individuals on campus. Further, in order to lay *Woroni* out in a coherent fashion, we try to put things of the same subject matter on the same page. Because there is a limit to what we can put on any page only a certain number of articles of a given size can be placed on a page. It is not possible to just add or subtract a page either, as each page is connected to the others.

The Editors' job is busy and difficult one. In the course of any one day, dozens of bits of paper come in and out of the office, along with requests for advertising over the phone. We can't individually keep track of all of them.

All of which is to say, if your contribution doesn't appear in a particular issue of *Woroni*, then there could be many reasons why.

Over the past few months, many people representing either themselves or a group have come into the office and gone quite irate over the failure of their contribution to make the last issue. Ordinary and otherwise perfectly friendly people seem to turn into monsters on

these occasions. Editors are abused and threatened, lay-out sheets are threatened with destruction, accusations of bias and selectivity are made, in short, the Editor's day is made distinctly unpleasant.

We are not obliged to print everything we receive. As a practical matter, we couldn't even if we wanted to. If an article doesn't make it in one issue, it has probably been held over for next one. Feel free to come in and see us about it, but don't get abusive. We don't get danger money. The Editors can at best give you an assurance that they will try to get it in, but we can't make any promises. It is unreasonable for people to come in and demand written guarantees that something will go in, as has been happening in recent months. **WE ARE EDITORS, NOT YOUR PUBLISHERS.**

We would finally like to thank all those who have contributed to date and made *Woroni* what it is. If you haven't contributed anything yet, do so! We are desperate or contributions of a non-political nature. We can't believe that it is only the politicians who are motivated enough to write. Where are all the sports reports etc. etc. etc.?

Woroni's Cartoonist



Classifieds

ROOM VACANT

Room vacant in non-smoking student household in O'Connor. To share with 2 men, 2 women, a cat and a dog. Woman preferred. \$38 p.w. plus kitty plus bond. Ph. 476538.

INTERHALL BACHELOR AND SPINSTER BALL

The date has been set for the Interhall B & S. Ball for Wednesday 20th May - first week back from Term One holidays. The B & S will go from 8.30pm to 2.30pm, with a band from 9pm to 2am. Ticket cost will be \$20.00.

QUIT SMOKING COURSE

Members of the University Health Service and Counselling Centre are offering a course of four lunchtime sessions for staff and students who wish to give up smoking.

Nicotine addiction and peer group pressure make giving up smoking no easy task. Our course emphasises the positive benefits of non-smoking as part of personal lifestyle management for wellness. It will include measurement of lung function, group discussion on reasons for smoking and mutual support for lifestyle change. A prescription for nicotine chewing gum will be available for anyone who requests it.

Enrolments:
Through the University Counselling Centre, X 2442. Partners or friends of smokers will be welcome to enrol. Cost is \$2 for the course.

Times:
Monday lunchtime, 12.30-1.30pm. in the Wellness Centre, on 6, 13, 27 April and 18 May. One or more follow-up sessions may be offered if requested.

The Clubs and Societies Committee of the ANUSA wishes to advise students that meetings will be held weekly at 12 noon Tuesdays in the S.A. Office.

Tony Whiting (Chair)

BAHASA INDONESIA learner seeks Indonesian-born conversationalist. Times and remuneration to be negotiated. Phone 812490 (ah)

ANU SKI CLUB

There will be an ANU Ski Club gathering on **THURSDAY 23 APRIL** 7.30pm in THE BRIDGE

Members are invited to attend to eat, drink and discuss plans for ski trips in the mid term break.

New members are welcome and you can join on the night.

So see you there

Editors:
Valerie Cheng,
Simon Finch,
Stephen Kirchner,
Sarah Laverty,
Geoff Martin,
Nicholas Mate,
Nicola Phillips,
Michael Stinziani,
Gerard Wheeler.

Credits:
Mark Phelps,
Peter Phelps,
Stuart Carrail,
Shaun Walsh,
Neil Goodchild,
Ian Fitzgerald,
Tania Buebella,

Published by Lisa Woodgate,
Director of Student Publications
on behalf of the
ANU Students' Association.

Moral Guidance: Henry A. Kissinger.

Sister Publication: *La Prensa*.

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

BRADDON: Person (pref. non-smoker) to share house with one other. Huge room,, spacious house. Large garden, veg. & chickens. 10 min walk Civic (15 mins, Uni) \$73 per week. from 11 April: Ph. dh 437477, ah 489814

PROGRESSIVE ECONOMICS SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Union Board Room
Friday April 24, 12-2pm
open to all staff and students

Questions to Answer:

Do Economists worship the Free Market?

Should Perfect Competition have a Monopoly in the ANU Economics Faculty?

Can one use Economics to analyse society today?

Is Economics the Universal Answer to the World's Problems?

Expressions of interest can be directed to:

Craig Lawrence 583701

Justin McEvoy 494048

Craig Applegate 261474

Tendai Gregan 313723

LOUNGE SUITE: Berber material with optional Indian cover: 3 seat settee and large 'comfy' arm chair, plus lots of extra cushions. Was \$349, will sell for \$199 ono.

Ph. X3890 or 956635 and ask for Carol.

OCF CANBERRA MAY CAMP '87

The Overseas Christian Fellowship (OCF) would like to invite you to an Evangelistic Camp between 1st to 4th of May.

If you do not know God your Creator, then this camp is for you!

Venue: Kooringa Park,
Batehaven
Batemans Bay.

ALL ARE WELCOME

If you have been held back by past memories and broken relationships to live the satisfying and wholesome life you want or if you are searching for a more challenging and fulfilling life, then I invite you to take up this challenge to discover a God who is alive and real - and you will discover a life worth living!

Vivienne Chooi

Yuen Leong

Bruce Hall

ANU BUSINESS CLUB

Everybody is welcome to join

Project No. 1:
Investment in the booming stock market \$20 per person.

Meeting is held every **Tuesday**
1.00pm Union Board Room

For further information contact:
Teik Seng Ng
Toad Hall
or Students' Association Office

New down Sleeping Bags -5 deg. \$160,
-10 deg. \$180, - 15 deg. \$190. Pure silk inners \$25.

Geoff Martin. Rm 161 Burgmann College
47 9441



Cliff for OZ

Dear Eds,

Cliff Smuts has been described in many ways — "crude, rude and in possession of enormous popular appeal", "arrogant", "playing emperor", "charismatic". Some of this is right, some not.

Cliff Smuts is of course better known by the name his parents gave him — Clifford Smith. (And it's totally coincidental that the Rhodesian Unilateral Declaration of Independence was signed, just before God brought Cliff into this world, by Douglas Smith and Clifford Dupont). Cliff, for one, is of course very popular, right across the political spectrum (and below it too). He'll be one of those few people you will be proud of pointing to on TV later in life and saying, I went to ANU with him. As sure as night follows day, Cliff's going places, don't you worry about that. Emperor of the Free World, maybe not, but he'll save Australia yet.

It's Cliff's many qualities that endear him to the common folk — his charisma, his friendship, his passionate discussion, his strength. Some people don't like it however.

As he strides into the SA meeting, all heads turn, and Cliff acknowledges their respect. The prancing speaker at the time doesn't like this diverting of attention, so he/she will spread malicious gossip about supposed arrogance, rudeness and abruptness. But Cliff is there for the common folk.

When the lefties tried to condemn the WORONI editors that people had elected, for doing their job, Cliff used his strength and charisma to try and stop this. He fought it to the last, using the rule of law — the SA Constitution — to try to stop them.

And when the lefties wanted to restrict freedom of speech on campus Cliff was in action again, fighting for you, not for any sectional interest. Stalin and Hitler may have used their personal ality cults to kill millions, but Cliff uses his to help you, the common folk.

So next time you hear someone saying something nasty about Cliff, you'll know they're against the common people, you'll know Cliff stood up to them, you'll know Cliff was on the job.

In fact, maybe we should elect him Emperor of the Free World.

David Wawn

Tonka Trucks

Dear Eds, and Fairy Bread

They say that a week is a long time in politics, and the last week of student politics at the ANU was no exception. Before coming to this university I was more inclined to follow the Labor political point of view, but after seeing the Labor Coalition Club in action, I am reconsidering my political beliefs very carefully indeed.

The first debacle I witnessed was the so-called Labor Club AGM, which was as about as organised as a chook raffle at the local pub. The bureaucratic bullshit that went on at this so-called political gathering was outrageous. A few of us newcomers came to see the Labor Club in action, and we witnessed an unorganised, pathetic and paranoid bunch of screaming idiots trying to shoot each other down with verbal insults and constitutional procedure. What a show it was, if I didn't know it was the Labor Club I would have thought that the Ciccus had come to town.

When the first act was finished, act two began. The Labor Club rushed into the Union bridge to gather up as many lefties as they could just in case there happened to be a vote on an issue; probably something intelligent like, did we put too many hundreds and thousands on the fairy bread at the last Labor-leftie paranoid party. To put it bluntly the Labor AGM was one of the best comedy events I have witnessed in quite a while. Perhaps Max Gillies could use them as script-writers for his next TV series.

I now move along to the Special General Meeting of the Students' Association held on April 1st. This was also a spectacular piece of comical entertainment. The refectory was full of lefties. Not the occasional one or two dozen spread amongst the bystanders, but there were literally hundreds who had come out in their droves to attend an April fools joke, and protect a leftie president from the claws of the so-called big bad Liberal Club.

The motion put forward by Peter Phelps President of the Liberal Club and Stuart Carrail, to remove the president Kate Andrews was withdrawn, and Peter graciously explained to the gathering (mostly lefties) that it was only an April fools joke. The Lefties however all jumped up onto their soapboxes and generally yelled abuse and indecent remarks to any person they believed may have been connected with the joke.

This though was not enough for our far-out "friends" wearing the op-shop specials, the peace beads and the orange haircuts. Like little kiddies at kindergarten fighting over who the Tonka truck belongs to, the lefties put forward a motion that the instigators of the "Kick Katie out" proposal should have to pay for the time, money and effort of holding the meeting. This rightfully so was thrown out.

The lefties though had not finished, still pissed off at coming to an April Fools joke they proposed that an apology was in order, and that it should be published on page one of WORONI. This caused conflict when it was passed, as three of the editors of WORONI believed they were being told what to publish and where to publish it (a fair assumption). The meeting turned into a dictatorship with the totally unconstitutional Chairman instructing the editors they must abide by the meeting's decision: So much for freedom of the press!

The vote on the apology issue was around four hundred to eight, with myself being one of those who dissented. I dissented because of the biased way the meeting had been held, and because democratic rights had been infringed upon. (Namely the editors of WORONI). If the Lefties who were present at the meeting had sat down and thought about the issue involved, instead of trying to just get back at the Liberal Club and inflate their already over-sized egos, they would have realised that the issue in question was a serious one and one that demanded serious thought, (of which I doubt they are capable of after witnessing their childish and insulting behaviour at the meeting).

What started off as an April fools joke, turned into a farcical display of cheap leftie point scoring. They took advantage of a meeting which contained around 95 percent of students with their point of view to pass a motion that would not be tolerated by any right minded thinking student who was not present at the meeting. Is this the usual leftie turn-up at the meeting? I desperat-

ely hope not. I would hate to think that our Student Association is being run by votes from left-wing radicals such as those at the April 1st meeting.

I therefore urge all students with an interest in student politics to come to the next SA meeting and show their point of view and provide an alternative to what was present at the April Fools meeting.

Yours
S.H. Murray

Left & Right Ratbags

Dear Eds,

As a member of Liberal Students I am writing to you to express my feelings of shame and disillusionment about what happened on the first of April. To play an April fools joke on the student population like that is really pathetic. We've got a lot more important things to do with our time than sacrifice it for a really stupid and sick joke. All the energy and expense and resources that went into last Wednesday's effort are wasted, all for nothing.

I'm really disillusioned, hasn't the Liberal Club (my club) got anything better to do with its time than just bickering with the lefties. You seem to be a bunch of prize ratbags, more so even than Kate Andrews and all the other mobs put together. I thought that Liberal students were about improving ANU, our country and our world as a whole. Well why don't you start to do something positive for this world. Organise a few charity drives, help out homeless students, offer some support and encourage students, bring them together instead of dividing them. Start doing something constructive, all pitch in together, Left and Right and do a little hard work to help everybody instead of bickering and marching and going on like a bunch of ratbags. Or is that what you're all about?

Disillusioned
but loyal
Andrew Fisher

Labor Unity

Dear Editors,

Let it be known that the 1986 Labor Students Club was officially amalgamated and transformed directly into the Labor Coalition on Monday 30th March 1987. We can by no means be labelled as a splinter group by the likes of Teik Seng, who was present at the meeting at which these events took place. This change was merely one of convenience with the identity of the elected SRC ticket, and an endeavour to rid the conscientious, hardworking sincere team which is the Labor Coalition, from the spectre of Jeremy Pearce and the Liberal puppeteers who control him. The Labor Coalition is re-affiliated with the SA, and is continuing, unchanged, as before.

Much more importantly, I feel I must yet again, express my disgust at the behaviour of the Liberal students on campus who threw in the faces of students any pretence they had of taking their commitment seriously. Only churlish and childish minds could possibly see any amusement in challenging a democratically elected and competent SA President, and then having drawn out 600 angry students, to withdraw the motion claiming April Fools. Two things need to be pointed out: Firstly, the Liberal students served only to draw together 600

students who were not necessarily politically aligned, to support their democratically elected president, and these students will not deign to have their commitment thrown in their faces. Secondly, the Liberal students would have had to have over 1000 students to support them in their efforts to destabilize the SA. They will not now, nor ever have this sort of support with this kind of behaviour. Students will not stand for this pointless puerile behavior — Peter Phelps and Stuart Carrail, I was obviously mistaken in expecting more from you, you and your club have only lost this April 1st. Indeed, it would be a long day's march to find two greater fools.

Yours in Unity,
Fiona J. Lynch
Snr Vice-President
Labor Coalition

Liberal Bash

Dear Eds.,

No doubt members of the Liberal Club responsible for the calling of the so-called 'April Fools' SA Special general meeting will in this and future issues of THEIR newspaper try to salvage some lost credibility by accusations of Leftie stack, over-reaction, pointscoreing, etc. I would like to point out the following:

STACK?: The ANU Left would be bemused even flattered if one suggested that 600 or so people who turned up to the meeting were all solid members on call at any stage. However (unfortunately?) the people in attendance were not so affiliated, in fact the vast majority of them were in my opinion students whose major concern was that last year's election result be respected.

OVER-REACTION? It's suggested that Kate Andrews (and the left in general) somehow can't take a joke, that they over-reacted in organising for the meeting. On the contrary given that Kate herself had final discretion as to the date of the meeting it is ridiculous to say that she shouldn't have protected herself from the possibility (indeed probability) that the Liberals would seriously try to unseat her, especially given their recent history of attempting to unseat her and destroy the SA. Furthermore, ironically she would have failed in her duty under the constitution had she failed to take it seriously.

Of course even the calling of the meeting for a joke is an extremely hypocritical action by the Liberals. They continually preach about waste of student resources and then force this meeting, which others have to organise in the middle of an anti-fees rally. Their disclaimer sheet attempts to justify their 'joke' on the basis that student politicians' egos are in some way too big. Surely it's egotistical to think that 600 students who turned up at the meeting are going to be interested in a clique political joke perpetrated by them. If the Liberals were really worried about egos and ambitions they would stop grovelling to John Howard, and stop trying to create an SRC with policy making power. An SRC with policy making power would mean our own little 'student parliament' on campus, and if they think egos, factions and in-fighting are thriving now, imagine how well these would fare if such a body was created here.

Yours sincerely,
Robert Beech-Jones

Marmaduke

Politics at the Strine Nationalised University is usually pretty quiet around this time of year. With the Reeducation Week recruitment drives over and the first elections months away, the various protagonists around the Cream Bun Dispensary don't have a great deal with which to occupy themselves.

However, this year, the Liberty Club saw fit to liven things up a bit with an All Fools Day joke. On Monday, the requisite three days notice was given for a Special General Congress of the Dispensary constituency for the purpose of removing from office the General Secretary of the Dispensary, Katherine the Great.

Now if it is a Monday and you are given three days to call a meeting for your dismissal, chances are you'll call it on the Wednesday. Given also that Wednesday was All Fools Day, one would tend to come to the conclusion that it was an All Fools Day joke. However, the Liberty Club had the Leftist General Secretary in a bind. If she did not take the matter seriously, she could lose her job by failing to stack-out the Congress.

So it was on for young and old. Monday night saw the requisite posters go up on the requisite walls, telling all of the imminent Great Purge (curiously, no posters appeared from the Liberty Club). On Tuesday, chaos ruled supreme as the Dispensary had to organise an anti-Freebee Tax march (the Labouring Party government has been naughty and is now taxing student freebees such as education) on the Strine National Assembly. Large numbers were expected, apart from the inter-provincial imports, and contingency plans had to be made for the circulation of a second postage stamp on which to place the names of those who threatened to attend. Not only that, but Wednesday night also happened to be the night when Oliber Timbo of the African Necklacing Coterie was going to address gathered Leftists at a Canberry hotel. All this while the spectre of a Liberty Club Purge lurked in the background requiring a huge stack to be organised.

The round-up for the biggest Leftist stack of a Congress meeting in years led to scenes not seen in Canberry since all the pseudos brought in their pots, pans and Pollocks to be melted down to save Labouring Party leader Alcibiades from the peoples' boot in 1975. Boilersuits on Campus were busy arranging urchin care facilities, while the hunt was on for someone capable of chairing the meeting (meeting skills not being a Leftist forte). The Labouring Club's support was enlisted, which led to smiles all round, especially within the Labouring Club, which had found the thing that eludes them for most of the year, a *raison d'etre*.

The Liberty Club, as you would expect, didn't have much to say for itself. Enquiries as to the true nature of the threatened Purge led only to comments that the Club had every intention of sacking the General Secretary. I went to the trouble of ringing my Liberty Club contact at the Club's brothel/HQ in one of Canberry's less reputable suburbs. Over the shrieks of laughter coming down the line, I could make out my erstwhile informant telling me that it was indeed an All Fools Day joke. I was, to say the least, most impressed. A prank of this magnitude hadn't been played for a long time.

All that was left now was the Big Night.

I went along for the expected entertainment, however, what I saw was distinctly unfunny. Now I'm not one to pass judgements, however, I'm a firm believer in the use of humour as a tool for critical exposure and the utility of All Fools Day in giving people a good time. So I was most distressed to see the Special General Congress taken over by that dreaded enemy of the people and a good time, the Wowser Brigade.

The Liberty Club had put on some entertainment in the form of a male stripper to deliver the All Fools Day message and the withdrawal of the motion to Katherine herself. This was a rather magnanimous gesture from a Club supposedly dedicated to the pursuit of self-interest. Yet the the Liberty Club's stripper had only managed to remove his jacket before the banshee howls and blood-chucking of Boilersuits on Campus led to the switching-off of the music. After being pelted with a potato by the Destroyer of Student Papers (DSP) he fled in fear of his life, escaping the DSP's vegetable barrage.

From there on it was all downhill, as the Leftist hacks brought in Big Bertha, a former General Secretary of the Dispensary, to grind the evenings few fun and laughs into the dust. The gathered crowd had to listen to vaccuuous hours of meeting procedure and unconstitutionally moved motions. Given that the original motion was withdrawn, there was absolutely no need to carry on with the farce that followed. I don't wish to take sides on this one. However, I do get pissed-off when people set about the deliberate destruction of a humorous event. Shame on the Leftists.

Other events this week included the Labouring Club's Annual General Bum Fight on Monday night. Liberty Club President Peter the Rabbit was seen handing green bits of paper to persons of less the complete comittment to the Labouring cause in order that they might attend the meeting to support the Labouring Students Club against the forces of Labouring Coalition. Labouring Coalition got wind of this activity and brought in

some Leftists to support them against the Liberty and Labouring Students'Club stack, with the result that Labouring Coalition is now safe and sound, for the time being. Rumour has it that an alliance is being forged between the Labouring Club and the Leftists this year. Dr. Plugman must be pleased!

So, as I look at the bottom of my last scotch and dry for the evening, your genteel scribe would like to postulate a weekly score board by which we might measure the fortunes of the various political groups:

Liberty Club:	Humour; 10	Political Activism; -10	Total 0
Labouring Club:	Humour; unknown	Political Activism; -10	Total 0
Leftists:	Humour; -10	Political Activism; 10	Total 0
Handicap (mental & physical):	10		

So at the end of the week, it seems they are all on an equal footing.

"Marmaduke"

Peter's Humour

Dear Eds,

Is Peter Phelps the only student pollie with a sense of humour?

I refer, of course, to the April Fools Day SA meeting. I for one, was certainly fooled but managed to enjoy a laugh at my own expense. It

would seem that those students in a position of power on this campus take that power, their own careers and themselves just a little too seriously. ALL OF YOU ARE REALLY NOT THAT IMPORTANT!

Yours Sincerely,
Wayne Murdoch

Peter for President

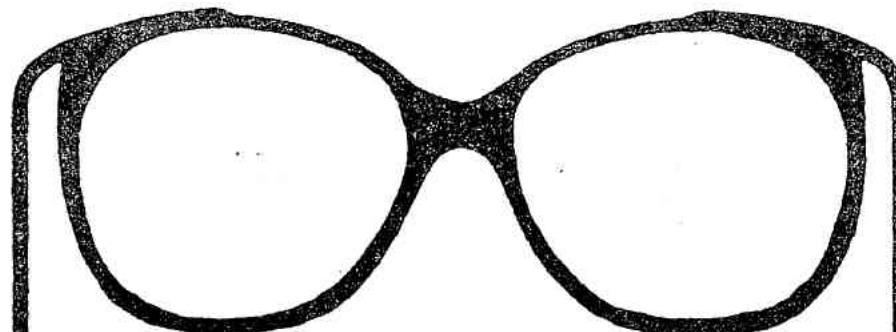
Dear Editors,

1st April 1987: It was reported that the ABC had been sold to the Arabs, and we all laughed. We were told that Joh no longer wanted to be PM, but now wanted to be UN Secretary-General, and we all laughed. Why is it then that our student heavies couldn't even force a smile at the Liberal's prank here at ANU? Are we to presume that they take themselves more seriously than the ABC and the Prime Ministership?

I don't much about student politics but at the next election will Peter Phelps please run for President! He's got my vote. The rest of them can go and die of depression.

Yours,
Jamie Bennett.

THE EYEWEAR SHOP



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Fumigate Ratty

Dear Eds,

I regret to inform your readers that in view of the large number of letters in the last Woroni from Andrew Major, we are going to have to refumigate the Union building for rats and other vermin.

We extend our apologies for any inconvenience caused and our failure to do a thorough job first time round.

Yours Faithfully,
Rentocull Pest Control.

Overt Greed

Dear Editors,

What is the difference between a group of students outside Parliament House shouting "No fees, more TEAS" and a group of farmers or manufacturers shouting "No imports, more subsidies". None. They are both overt displays of greed.

When are these students going to see themselves for what they are, a self-interest group who put their own taxpayer funded privileges before the rest of the community. One might also ask whether or not they give a stuff about the thousands of students who are missing out on a tertiary education because they are getting a free ride.

Yours Faithfully,
Richard Collins.

"Young Ones" Politics

Dear Eds,

The evergrowing absurdity of the university politics was revealed again on April Fools Day. We witnessed a Left group hysterically going to the defence of the President of the SRC in response to what was obviously a nonsensical provocation by the Liberals. I don't wholly blame the Left supporters for this but the episode only served to highlight the kindergarten nature of what passes for serious issues affecting students on this campus. The outcome was a ridiculous debate which made both groups look equally silly and one which was tantamount to a quiz on "who knows the Constitution best." Student politics is becoming more like an episode of the "Young Ones", only twice as funny!?? Wouldn't it be better for all of us if the political groups (oh so self-important) disbanded voluntarily and donated their funds for worthwhile causes such as cappacino machines in all

libraries and/or a new coat of paint for that ugliest of buildings - the Union. May the Farce be with you!!

Yours,

Carl Gerdes

The Weak in Politics

Dear Eds,

What a week in politics on campus! On Monday, the Liberal Club made a pathetic attempt to stack out the Labor Students Club.

On Tuesday, there was a pretty timid anti-fees rally at Parliament House organised by the Left which, frankly, was a flop.

Wednesday saw the April Fool's Day massacre at the largest S.A. meeting in years.

Thursday, the Union closed its doors due to some bloody-minded demands of the workers.

I'm fed up with politicians wasting my union fees in their petty squabbles. I thought people came to University to study.

Yours sincerely,
S. McLean.

April Fool Obvious

Dear Eds,

I went along to the April Fools Meeting of the Students' Association knowing as most others did, that it was a farce. It was obvious to me that there was never any intention to dismiss Kate Andrews. In fact, it should have been obvious to everyone as no Liberal posters had been put up, no college door knock took place and above all, it was April Fools Day. Despite this, the Left wanted to score points. They tried to force two Liberals to pay for the massive campaign of the SA to get people to the meeting. Whether or not the April Fools prank is stupid or ill-received, trying to force students to pick up the tab for SA leaflets makes me worried. As I understand it, every ordinary member of the SA has the right to call Special General Meetings, regardless of the reason. Consequently, the cost of such meetings should not be forced on individuals who exercise that right.

Yours,
P. Vincent.

Not Participatory

Dear Eds,

As a first year student at the ANU, I don't have much experience at meeting procedure at SA meetings. I went along to support Kate as SA President but found that only those

who had a sufficient grasp of standing orders were able to get a word in. The fact that a non-student was brought in to chair the meeting suggests that not even those in power know how to work this system.

We should get rid of this "participatory democracy." Let's face it, few were able to participate and it certainly wasn't democratic.

Faithfully,
S. Wong.

Liberals Tongue in Cheek

Dear Eds,

OK - there was a lot of things wrong with the SA meeting. Student politics is a serious business, and the Liberals did and do have a somewhat tongue-in-cheek attitude to the whole thing. Just so people don't think I'm too right-wing, I've just resigned from the Liberal Club because of the paranoid Left-bashing.

BUT lets keep things in perspective, and lets keep a sense of humour. The Liberals called the meeting not to depose Kate Andrews but to point out the general apathy of students towards the SA - and the only way you're going to get a good response at the SA meeting is by doing something controversial. True, they ruffled feathers and put people out, but they have pointed out some flaws in the system.

Yours,
Michael Stanier

Lazy Hypocrites

Dear Eds,

As a first year student I've heard a lot about fighting tertiary fees and so I've done a lot of thinking about the issue. Last weeks rally made up my mind as to where I stand. At 11:30 am I came across a lot of students(?) lying around in the sun, painting signs, and obviously having a good, lazy time. Do they expect the Australian workers and tax-payers to pay for this? What a bunch of hypocrites!

Yours,
Michelle Towns

Bob's Days Are Numbered

Dear Eds,

It looks like Bobby Wheeldon's career is coming to an end. The Chairperson of the BMT/Liberal

(these words are interchangeable) Union Board has had a BAD week.

First, he tried unsuccessfully to have me thrown out of his office. Then he tried to have me arrested - but the police didn't show.

On the same day the Left held a national rally against fees which was very successful.

On Wednesday their April Fools "joke" went down like a lead ballon. As 500 people showed up to support Katie Andrews.

And today, which is Thursday, the Union building is closed because the staff are on strike against the appalling mismanagement of Union services.

Your days are numbered, Bobby boy.

Yours,

Alusha Mamchak.

On Escalation

Dear Eds,

Its amazing how the concept of escalation has become accepted as part of everyday life; prices in the Union are escalating, university fees are escalating, violence in South Africa is escalating as is the arms race and now the concept of escalation has entered the political scene on campus.

The old left and right political debate has escalated from verbal arguments to physical abuse.

First there was political debate and mild point scoring (fair enough).

Second there was personal pointed mud slinging verging on slander (a bit below the belt).

Let's get away from violent and personality politics and back to debates about the real issues like: fees, racism, nuclear arms, housing, woman's issues etc etc etc.

Yours Sincerely,
A. Mamchak

700 Too Many

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Goldilocks and the 700 bears, 700 blind mice, the 700 little pigs and "700 attend Students' Asssocation meeting."

Yours,
Helen Wilson.

Standard Dylan

Dear Eds.,

I would like to express my disgust with the Libs on campus.

Like their parliamentary mirror images Libs can no longer present a rational or productive opposition to the other political groups on campus, they seem to have lost their nuts.

During this year's first SA meeting they could not keep to procedure, could not consistently speak to the motion, and could not restrain their orgasmic delight at the entrance of the most disruptive elderstatesman since Molotov invented his favourite cocktail at a politbureau piss up.

Since that first meeting, the Libs forced what they call the April Fools meeting to be called.

April fools day joke, huh. A motion of no confidence in a democratically elected president is no joke no matter what day of the year it is. Anyway the jokes are disallowed after 12 noon. Go get your facts right boys.

On off the so-called fun and back to the serious stuff. Most people would agree that political meetings and newspapers are for mudslinging, or drinking sessions, barnites are for unadulterated alcohol abuse and never the twain should meet.

The B&G establishment make few bones about their barnites, they are unadulterated drinking sessions and student politics should have nothing to do with it and if the pollies are so obnoxious as to insist on confrontations, then things should be settled with a few jug races or such like not a mudslinging/shouting match.

At last Friday's B&G Barnite, a group of the younger Libs could not contain themselves to simple revelling but spent much of the evening calling known lefties fuckwits etc. and occasionally shouting 'lefties suc' or 'I hate lefties'.

Now that's a bit of a poor showing as it appeared to be the extent of their political or economic vocabulary.

If we can't keep the mud out of campus politics, let's at least confine it to the meetings and WORONI.

Love and a sore head
Dylan

PS. most of us did have a good nite after they nicked.

No Joke

Dear Eds.,

It has come to my attention that the perpetrators of the attempted April 1st coup intend to write their dastardly machinations off as a joke!

Some joke! three days of tension and anger for the President and her supporters at a time when we could little afford to divert our attentions from the anti-fees campaign.

No doubt the massive popular support Kate received on Wednesday night will be seen by the April Fools as a stack! Perhaps the majority support that Kate so deservedly enjoys is also a stack?

The Liberals must indeed feel 'foolish' that they were unable to muster even the 55 out of the 60 students who called the meeting in the first place. Even the promise of free beer couldn't fortify the pretenders to defend in person their irresponsible actions. Notable by their absence were Cliff

Smith and Kendall Odgers, who both called for the Special general meeting.

Perhaps the only positive aspect of this whole affront is that the liberal leadership has been revealed for what it is: a callous and cowardly power hungry rabble without even the support of its own members, much less that of the student body.

R. Weisser

Cliff & the SA

Dear Eds.,

I write in response to Geoff Martin's comment in the last edition of WORONI, that Cliff Smith was 'uncontrollable' at the first general meeting of 1987 of the Students' Association some weeks ago.

Quite simply, if Cliff Smith had not challenged Kate Andrews' judgements; had not demanded that the meeting be conducted in a constitutional manner; had not stood up for his constitutional rights, and had not taken control of the meeting then it would have been an even more farcical operation than it turned out to be.

It is blatantly obvious that the left group who control the SA are not able to provide a competent chairman

for an

SA meeting.

This is exemplified by the fact that at the April Fools' meeting of the SA, the left were forced to use an outsider as chairman. Just in passing, I might add that the person who did chair the April 1 meeting, because she is a life member of the SA and as such is an associate member was not constitutionally allowed to chair the meeting.

Cliff Smith has my total support for his actions at the first general meeting of the SA. His so-called attempt to 'play Emperor' was merely an attempt to ensure that this farcical meeting was carried out in a constitutional manner, and that justice be done to all — not just the lefties.

Yours sincerely,
Mark J. Phelps

Kate & the Mainstream

Dear Eds.,

As a first year, I was glad to see the overwhelming support which Kate Andrews enjoyed at the April fools day prank.

What did concern me however was her curriculum vitae. I would assume that her campaign was spearheaded by the better of her works. I was therefore surprised that Aboriginal admission schemes featured so prominently on what circumstances dictated by a condensed account.

Certainly, the good treatment of minority and special interest groups is the hallmark of any great democracy, but, I would argue that there are many issues which should receive greater attention. It could be argued that Aboriginal special admission schemes does not represent a "common interest" — Constitution: Division A section 3 subsection "c" and ipso facto to argue this matter whilst wearing the presidential hat would be unconstitutional.

Kate was elected and, I believe is supported by the mainstream as well as the extreme left of the student body. I would therefore urge her to settle back into this role. The Aboriginal

people, as I have seen on several occasions are very capable of putting their own case eloquently and forcefully.

Livingstone

Greedy Unionists

Dear Eds.,

I am writing to voice my disapproval of the strike by the union staff on Thursday 2/4/87. No one questions the general principle that everyone has the right to strike to highlight and hopefully remedy an injustice, but pragmatism demands action. Just what "right" a person has to strike must depend on the particular circumstances of each case. In the present case of the Union staff strike, several facts must be considered:

— The strike by the union staff caused a good deal of inconvenience to innocent students, who went either hungry or else were forced to make a special trip to Civic (often impossible with a tight lecture time, table).

— The demands of the union staff are indeed unreasonable, and hence they are not exercising a "right" to strike to highlight an injustice, as no injustice exists. To demand as a right conditions that workers elsewhere do not enjoy is unreasonable in the extreme and in fact quite greedy. For instance, the union staff all want a free alcoholic drink at the end of their shift, improved meal allowances, and a coffee break for casual shifts of only three hours. Demands such as these would be laughed at in other industries. (All students who have ever worked in retail would know what I mean!), and yet the union staff have the audacity to put innocent students at an inconvenience to press for such self-indulgent conditions.

— The union staff want an increased say in the decisions of the board of management, so as supposedly to protect both staff and student interests. This may sound desirable in theory, but surely the union staff must see that a) the students of this university elected a perfectly adequate board of management, and such a democratically elected body would have more of a claim to represent students' interests than people whose only relationship with us is that they serve us food, drink and entertainment.

b) Of course the staff have a right to protect their interests, but to demand to have a substantial direct voting power on management decisions (such as staff payment levels) is wrong.

To allow such a thing to happen would create a situation of a conflict of interests. i.e. staff on the board would have to vote for what is best for staff, even if that is not best for the union.

— The claim by the union staff that the board of management is getting rid of long established work practices should be met with the reply, "So what?" The abolition of archaic and unreasonable work practices does not automatically make the supporter of such moves a member of the New Right, as some people would have us believe. In fact, the need for the removal of such practices in every industry is nationally recognised as essential to stop Australia's slide to third world status. Obviously, the efforts of the union staff will not individually affect Australia's position, but the point is that all people must make an effort.

— The union staff are opposed to the privatization of certain areas of the union i.e. the inclusion of independent shops. It seems apparent that the reasons for this opposition are that the inclusion of independent shops would make further strike action by the union less effective as these shops would stay open irrespective of the strike, and that the inclusion of these shops would make the union more profitable and accountable — a bit of a shock for an organisation run sloppily by a left-wing board of management for so long.

— The union staff have unjustly claimed that the board of management has been acting in an "unfeeling and uncaring" way. As it appears to me, the union management has acted with a view of running the union as it should be run, like a business. The union management has given up allowances they were previously entitled to, the bar has been carpeted and cleaned up for the comfort of patrons, and the completion of the refurbishment plans will enhance every student's enjoyment of the union. By simply not giving in to the wants of every person, management is not acting in an "unfeeling and uncaring" way.

In view of the above facts, it seems clear that the union have indeed no "right" in the present situation to strike. I hope and am sure the majority of students will see the strike for what it is — a greedy attempt to snatch unreasonable work conditions by a group unaccustomed to the union being run as a business.

Stephen Christie
c/ John XXIII College

Little Boys' Games

Dear Eds.,

The Special SA Meeting called by the Liberal Students' Club for the purpose of sacking Kate Andrews was a disgrace. The hiring of the male stripper, who attempted to, but thankfully was stopped from performing his act was offensive and childlike in the extreme. Not all of us may agree with Kate's feminist principles, but they are such that they must be respected at all times. It could only be the most puerile of minds that would stoop to offend Kate's views in such a manner.

In the 1986 SA elections the Liberals' Presidential candidate, Diana Anderssen was also subject to sexist abuse in the form of misleading defamatory pamphlets. Labor Coalition, the Left and indeed the great majority of students felt shocked and saddened at the level to which student politics had evidently sunk. In view of the Liberals' recent actions it is my opinion, and I am sure Di would agree, that it would be appropriate for her to voice her disapproval and disgust in WORONI at her political colleagues and condemn them for what they are — LITTLE BOYS, playing silly practical jokes without realizing their significance. This surely would be a test for Di's commitment to the women's cause — an issue she has previously pushed.

In anticipation,
Sally Standen
(Labor Coalition)

Response to Wawn

Dear Eds.,

In response to David Wawn's response to the Christians, I write. I'm not a Christian, Moslem or Buddhist, however even I could see the irrelevance of the quotations he picked to hopefully deter the Christians in their virtuous tracks.

Is it really necessary to undermine people's beliefs in the name of intellectual superiority? Surely this is not only immature but irresponsible to attack people's spiritual inclinations (institutionalized, socialized or not) unless you offer a more formidable alternative? I'm sure he can express his cleverness in a more productive fashion.

On our contemporary society modified by progressive thought and complex value systems, how many Christians do you really think take the old testament examples (relevant to a totally different society and culture) seriously, let alone literally?

Personally I've yet to witness a headless woman past defending her husband/de facto/boyfriend/friend or sacrificial unblemished bull/sheep or a drunken lazy youth stoned to death, on campus or in the community.

If some people manage to find some meaning in a faith, why spoil it for them?

I just hope David can show us the love and power working in his life.

Neutral reader

Participatory?

Dear Eds.,

Were you fooled?

I must admit that I believed that the Liberals were serious, turned up to their "special" meeting of the SA, only to be told that I was an April Fool, and to add insult to injury, take myself too seriously. The joke was obviously a little dry for a majority of those in attendance - they were not amused, and they certainly were not to be denied the fight they came for.

I realise that this was an extraordinary event, in that a large number of students came, but it was hardly good publicity for the "participatory democracy" which the Liberals purportedly wished to encourage. For an inexperienced meeting-goer, who has not yet mastered the Constitution, it was not only daunting, but boring.

While I appreciate that there must be order in a public meeting, is it absolutely necessary to spend a quarter hour discussing points of order, when a simple retraction would do? I may be very naive, but Kate Andrews (in whom everyone appeared to have complete confidence) seemed to share this belief that meetings needn't be this way.

The arrogance and self-righteousness of the Liberals, and the (albeit justified) ire of the Left, Labor (and apparently those Liberals not in on the joke) were amusing at first, but how about a democracy where those students without aspirations to great political heights may participate?

Sincerely,
an a-political creature,
K. Gainer**Self-Righteous Lefties**

Dear Eds.,

I wish to express my disbelief at the totally nonsensical comments made by our esteemed SA President, Katy Andrews in the 'Canberra Times' on Friday,

April 3, regarding the recent April fools meeting of the Students' Association.

Miss Andrews in her interview with the 'Times' expressed her ridiculous 'belief' that Wednesday's meeting of the SA was a failed attempt at a Liberal stack, rather than an April fools' joke.

Had there been any remnant of sanity present in the left movement they would have realised that there was not one Liberal Club poster stuck on any wall, nor one pamphlet stuffed under any door, urging students to come and throw out Katy Andrews.

But no, the lefties were so busy trying to defend poor Kate from "those nasty Liberals" that they wouldn't have noticed if Adolph Hitler had walked into the SA Office. How comical it was to see them running hither and thither like headless chooks, slapping up posters, giving stirring speeches, and madly trying to glean every possible Kate supporter from the campus community.

Meanwhile we Liberals stood back and watched the spectacle, quiet in the confidence that our April fools joke was going to be very big; and that's exactly how it was.

It is simply too bad that the hundreds of self-righteous lefties present take themselves too seriously to admit that the joke was on them.

It should have been blatantly obvious to all present that the Liberal Club never had any intention of throwing out poor Katy. The total lack of Liberal advertisements was highlighted by the reams of leftie propaganda and was obvious to any open-minded individual.

Katy Andrews' ludicrous comments are a cheap, unsubstantiated and feeble attempt to condemn the ANU Liberal Club for trying to put the fun back into student politics.

Yours
Mark J. Phelps**Fascist Woroni**

Dear Eds.,

Why, in an action-packed, hard hitting and extremely fascist issue of WORONI (9/3), did you include two and a half pages of pictures of Burgmann College having what they regard as a good time?

I'm sure all the Burgmann residents enjoyed seeing their wonderful and highly expensive college pictured there, but what about the 3,000 or so other students on this campus. This material wasted two pages of the student newspaper, and I don't believe that photographs cost an insignificant amount of money to print. In short, you wasted student funds presenting material that would have been more appropriately placed on the Burgmann College notice board than in the pages of WORONI.

Secondly, I'd like to question the necessity of throwing gunk over the Burgmann tutors, and indeed the taste of those involved. If, when offered a tutorship, I was told, "Oh year. And you have to let people cover you in whatever sticky substances they can find," I would not accept. If the only way Burgmann tutors can earn the respect of their fellow college members is to humiliate themselves, then there must be something wrong with the way tutors there are selected.

Finally, last year when campaigning, you advertised yourselves as a group with diverse interests and talents. I think you have yet to demonstrate this. I don't find Burgmann College, the Liberal Club and Rugby all that much of a diversion. Yours sincerely,
David Purdue

Self-depreciation?

Dear Eds.,

Just before the Extraordinary General Meeting, on 1 April, the Liberals distributed a printed sheet entitled "April Fool's Joke, Why we did it". This sheet was signed by Peter Phelps, President of the ANU Liberal Club and mover of the motion which called for Kate Andrews' removal. It contains a number of statements which deserve analysis.

Mr Phelps writes that calling an Extraordinary General Meeting "was a very good and effective way of putting some fun and interest back into the Students' Association". If Mr Phelps thinks that the 500 or so students who turned up to the meeting were driven by a sense of fun and a renewed interest in the affairs of the SA then he has a lot to learn about crowd psychology. They were there to ensure that the motion of no confidence (ostensibly a serious motion, seriously intended) was not passed. Evidence for this can be found in the fact that so many people stayed until the final vote, choosing to sit through all the riveting meetings procedure, long after it was clear what the result would be. The amount of fun that Mr Phelps' motion has put back into the SA can be measured by the tumultuous laughter that didn't follow his announcement that the whole thing was an April Fools' joke.

Perhaps Mr Phelps would suggest that the people at the meeting were a bit humourless. He writes: "Judging by the over-the-top and sanctimonious reactions of many student pollies to the calling of this meeting, it's pretty clear that many people involved in the ANUSA take themselves, their political careers and their egos a BIT too seriously!!" This is a very cryptic comment. Is Mr Phelps saying that Ms Andrews and her supporters should have treated his motion (on the face of it, a serious motion) as a joke? Is he, in effect, chastising people for taking HIM seriously? Was the entire farce an exercise in self-depreciation?

The motion reflected on Ms Andrews' propriety and capability. To have ignored those implications would have been to treat the motion with contempt. Despite the rumours going around beforehand that the whole stunt was an April fools' joke, Ms Andrews would have been FAILING IN HER DUTY had she not taken the motion seriously.

Mr Phelps and his club "hope" that their actions result in "greater turnouts at meetings and elections for the rest of the year." Whether or not that was the actual intention, it is hard to see how that can be the result. The Extraordinary General Meeting soon became bogged down in points of order, and incomprehensible meetings procedure. It was hardly a good introduction to those students who had never been to an SA meeting before. And if Mr Phelps thinks that most of those students liked what they saw and will be back for more at the next SA meeting then he is seriously over-estimating how entertaining his motion was.

The whole exercise was counterproductive. As an encouragement to attend future meetings it was a disaster, as a joke it was monumentally unfunny. Perhaps most importantly, it was a

huge waste of our time and SA money (our money). Only one positive thing came from the evening's activities. There was an overwhelming endorsement of Ms Andrews as President.

Yours
James Poppo**Capitalist Hedonism**

Dear Eds.,

It is my belief that the current economic policy debate about the role of government is poorly based.

I took up the study of neoclassical economics in the hope of being able to communicate in what has (unfortunately?) become the language of modern government. I (innocently?) thought that this linguistic tool of the right could be used to promote truly progressive social policies. However, it can always be proved, using the formal arguments of economics, that government assistance to the poor through the subsidisation and public provision of: health, education and housing is inefficient when compared to a direct income transfer. It is then presumed that these inefficient practices should be discontinued, even though the compensating income distribution towards the poor may NEVER BE PAID.

Governmental pursuit of cultural and social goals may be analysed in the same light.

This dominant Hypothetical-Compensationist school of welfare economics, is built on the outdated libertarian assumption of consumer sovereignty. Competitive conspicuous consumption is assumed to genuinely increase the happiness of those who engage in it. It was Galbraith who first realised that the commercial indoctrination which most Westerners are subjected to, via the medium of advertising, has changed economics forever.

The promise of advertising images, represented the Capitalist equivalent of the medieval mirage of an eternal reward for services rendered. Government provided services are needed to ensure that fundamental human needs are not overlooked in our conditioned pursuit of hedonism.

What I am promoting is a system in which productive resources are set aside for the provision of basic human needs and cultural aspirations. The alternative is global American trivia.

Yours Frustratedly,
Craig Applegate**Stuey Overwhelmed**

Dear Eds.,

How refreshing it was to read Stuart Carrail's enlightening letter of last issue, quoting as he does the views of Montesquieu. As a fellow member of his Social & Political Theory class, it is encouraging to note that other students are finding personal relevance in the abstruse writings of such eminent thinkers of the 18th century as Montesquieu.

I cannot help but conclude however, that poor Stuart must have been somewhat overwhelmed by the genius of the said philosopher, whom we covered in the first few weeks of the course, as he has hardly bothered to show up to any other lectures since!

Yours in esoteric comradeship,
Verity Esperance

President's Report

There is heaps to talk about this issue — free education campaign and, of course, some clarifications about the nature and course of the special general meeting.

Over the weekend of the 4th and 5th of April I attended a free education conference in Brisbane, hosted by Queensland University. Approximately 25 campuses were represented from around Australia, from every region bar Tasmania and the Northern Territory. The sixty students present discussed the national co-ordination of free education campaign — the organisational structure and specific actions for the future.

Participants decided that each campus should elect two delegates from its relevant group on campus (e.g. free education group) who would then meet regionally to elect two state co-ordinators. These individuals would work together on a national level. At present we have interim state co-ordinators.

Several resolutions came forward from the meeting. A unanimous decision was made to run a national boycott of the fee in 1988 if it is not abolished this year. Our shorter term actions include holding a national day of action on Wednesday May 6th (before the release of the mini-budget). There will be rallies, mardi-gras, etc. around Australia. We must co-ordinate the campaign nationally to achieve maximum impact for the National

Free Education Coalition campaign to succeed, we need you. Come to the next ANU Free Education group meeting and join. Working together across Australia we can win.

I would like to thank all those who were sufficiently concerned about the events of their Students' Association to attend the special general meeting, called at such short notice.

Now let's face it — those liberal students who orchestrated this disruption of not only our day to day business but also the national anti-fees rally, did not institute this procedure through simply a pervert-

ed sense of humour. There was a point. (I believe there was also a hidden agenda but that I will discuss further on.) The point they claim to be making is the inadequacy of our participatory democracy. Well, let's take this one head on. It should be addressed, though that was certainly not the way to do it. Though the policy of the Association is determined by participatory democracy, the president is elected by a process of representative democracy. So the Liberals were attacking the position that they claim to support.

I believe the president and all the officers of the Students' Association should be accountable to the members. Part of this accountability is the power to remove the officers if they fail in their duties. Yes, our constitution is open to abuse, as with all structures, but I see the problem as lying with those who would seek to abuse.

But this is not all it was about. That was made clear from the meetings beginning with the arrival of a male stripper. Perhaps some of you may think it amusing, if a little childish, but not only does it fail to take seriously particular women's issues, it demeans and degrades the chairperson, both the individual who occupies it and the representative of the Students' Association.

It trivializes the form of a participatory democracy. It is also yet another attempt to disrupt me from doing the work I was elected to do.

Now for some constitutional clarifications (several people have challenged Liz O'Brien's right to chair the meeting).

I opened the meeting and, as it was obvious that I could not chair a meeting called to examine my competence as President, I vacated the chair for Liz O'Brien, a life member and past president of the Students' Association. I thought Liz well qualified to chair the meeting since she is both experienced in meetings procedure and somewhat removed from student affairs. My choice of Liz as chair was, I feel, vindicated by the mature, ordered and unbiased way in which she chaired the meeting.

Section 6 of the constitution clearly states that the President, when chairing a general meeting of the Students' Association, "shall interpret the Constitution, provided that that meeting may dissent from her ruling". My interpretation of

the constitution was that Liz was eligible to chair the meeting and I expressed that interpretation by passing the chair to her. Since the meeting did not dissent, indeed no-one dissented from this action at the time, Section 6 makes it clear that Liz was therefore eligible to chair the meeting.

While I have no wish to bore you with details I think I should outline the process I followed to come to this interpretation. Sections 30 and 37 make it clear that any ordinary member of the Students' Association is eligible to chair a general meeting. Liz, since she is a life member of the Association, is also an Associate Member (Section 10(3)) and as such she has all the rights of an ordinary member except for voting rights at elections and general meetings (Section 9(5)). I therefore believe that she was eligible to chair the meeting.

Once again thanks to those who attended and thanks especially for another vote of confidence.

My final word on the subject is, as we were all taught when children, anyone who perpetrates an April fools' joke after mid-day is themselves the April fool.

Kate Andrews



These people began their careers
at The Sydney Opera House —
so could you!

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Time: 2.00 pm-9.00 pm

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Thursday 16 April 1987

9-



WITH GERARD WHEELER

Labor's Australia Card legislation was recently rejected by the Senate for a second time. Although media attention has focussed on a trigger being given for a double dissolution of Parliament, the legislation itself should still concern us all.

"The Government's Australia Card proposal has failed to demonstrate the overwhelming case necessary to justify such a gross attack on the fabric of Australian society." This is the view of Mr Roger Clarke, Reader in Information Systems in the Department of Commerce at the Australian National University. His claim is echoing the call of an ever increasing number of Australians who are opposed to introduction of a national identification scheme. Even though the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on the Australia Card has failed to support the Card, the Federal Government intends to introduce legislation which will create a system rivalled only by schemes in the Soviet bloc. Australia will become the first western democratic nation to have a close to comprehensive personal numbering system.



The Health Minister, Dr Blewett has that claimed he has wide popular support for the scheme, but all the Government has done is to fund a slick marketing campaign concentrating on the Card to the exclusion of other components of the scheme. Dr Blewett has hidden behind patriotic colours and names at the expense of a genuine public understanding of the scheme. Many wrongfully believe that the Australia Card will stop uncerberged drinking and apprehend drug traffickers.

One only needs to consider the findings of the Stewart Royal Commission to realise the effectiveness of the most sophisticated form of identity card, the passport. Hi-jackers, terrorists and drug traffickers operate freely despite the existence of passports. Robert Trimbole could tell us all of their benefits.

It is time the Government inform the Australian public on the true costs and likely benefits of the scheme. Roger Clarke's evaluation of the proposed system as presented in a

submission to the Joint Select Committee on the Australia Card gives some indication of the scheme's pitfalls.

Government estimates of the scheme's costs and benefits are dubious to say the least. On the cost side the Government has almost halved its 10 year estimates between December 1985 and February 1986 from \$808 million to \$495 million. Private sector costs have been simply ignored and public sector costs are ridiculously assumed negligible. On the benefits side, estimates are "optimistic guesswork" according to Clarke.

The Government claims that the Australia Card will save \$750 million per annum and \$4.5 billion over 10 years yet only flimsy justification is provided for such figures. Further savings of \$1.3 billion over 10 years for the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs are not supported by one line of argument. At most, the scheme will increase each taxpayer's income by a disappointing 0.7% per annum.

The Health Insurance Commission is to administer the Australia Card. An additional 1500-2500 staff, many of whom to be located in Canberra, will be required by the HIC to deal with the public and process personal details. For the peak 20 months of the scheme, Clarke has argued that the government has underestimated staff costs by \$70million. More computers will also be required and as the HIC has admitted, there will not be sufficient room in Canberra's Medibank House to house the new equipment. In addition, a telecommunications network will be

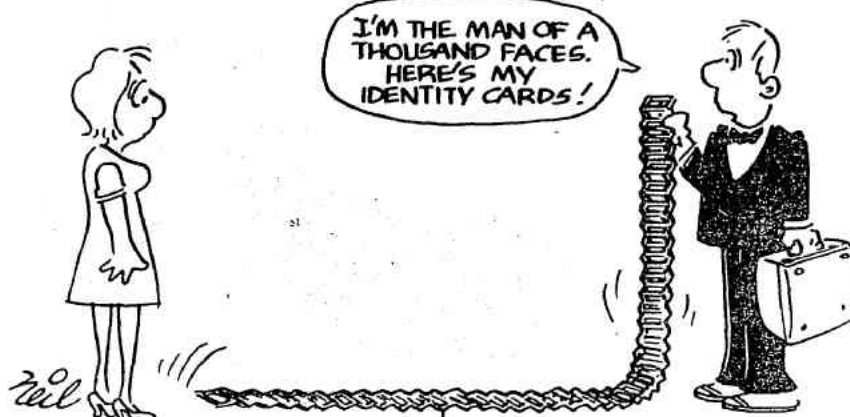
needed to receive and transmit data from remote areas to the Central Office in Canberra.

The scheme will also burden those it is intended to benefit. The Australian Taxation Office will have to alter its aging software and replace inappropriate hardware. At the same time, significant changes in its manual procedures will also be necessary. Many other government agencies including the various Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages and every marketing authority will also be required to incur costs to support the scheme's administration.

Government estimates of the system have notably omitted the costs that would be imposed on the private sector. As employers will have to record their employees' identification numbers significant changes to each company's data processing system will be required. Every payroll system will have to store

ID numbers and deduct tax at penalty rates for employees who refuse to produce their cards. The Government has also neglected to account for the time employees will have to spend away from work attending registration interviews, returning to collect their cards, queuing for replacement of lost or stolen cards and notifying the HIC of changes in personal particulars. This will be a massive impost on the private sector for which the Government will not compensate.

real estate agents and solicitors. As a result, the card will have to be available at all times. There may even be constraints on transactions as people will be precluded from undertaking some kinds of purchases by mail, telephone or telex since they may be required to present the card personally. At the time of original issue, the card must be collected and when personal particulars change, the registration authority must also be visited by the card holder.



The Australia Card will have a profound affect on the individual as it will have to be produced in dealing with a variety of organizations ranging from financial institutions to

Security considerations seem to have been ignored by the Government. There can be no guarantee of the security of the data as the leaked information of doctors incomes in NSW in 1985 showed. Thousands of public servants throughout Australia will be able to access the data ranging from post office clerks in remote areas to CES officers. Since corruption is difficult to contain a clandestine market for personal details could develop.

Another problem is the potential for mass surveillance. The Australia Card will make surveillance of individuals more efficient but also facilitate mass surveillance by making entire databases capable of matching and merger. Through database matching and inter-linking

it will become feasible to routinely search large populations for individuals who appear to have undesirable characteristics. The shadow Treasurer, Mr Jim Carlton was aware of the grave implications of the Australia Card when he said, "ID Cards are the first step towards a single, national computerized dossier on each individual citizen that could be used by a variety of bodies or agencies for a range of purposes without the consent of the individual concerned. It would put in the hands of bureaucrats in public and private organizations a power over individuals that cannot be tolerated in a free society."

The Government falsely claims that other countries have identification systems similar to the Australia Card but no country in the free world has a general purpose system even approaching the pervasiveness of Australia's proposed system. In searching for a model for the scheme bureaucrats from the HIC visited countries with identification schemes such as Israel which has existed in a state of siege since it was established and Hong Kong which faces an uncertain future as it prepares to change from a British colony to a possession of a Communist nation. Sweden's system was also considered but in that country the privacy of thousands of families have been invaded for many years by a long-term socio-economic study. In France, if a person fails to

produce identification to a civil authority compulsory internment can occur. Canada and the United States do not have national identification systems but have social security systems amounting to 'de facto' ID systems. In some states of the United States the Social Security Number is used in registering to vote, giving blood, taking out insurance policies and even as part of a data network linked with the FBI and the National Crime Information Centre. The Australia Card will be far more comprehensive than any of these systems.

It will provide a tightly controlled identification system unprecedented in the free world and due to advanced information technology the scheme will be potentially more constraining on the average citizen than any system in the Soviet bloc.

However, there are alternatives to the Australia Card. Roger Clarke has outlined several measures to combat tax evasion in this country. The Taxation Office could modify its systems to manage data effectively to provide assessors with relevant information when they require it and to bring exceptional cases automatically to the attention of audit staff. The systems could also be modified to receive, process and store additional data. Modern techniques in the processing of taxation returns could be adopted to automatically compare claims against norms and previous returns by the same person. Suburbs, street names and street numbers could also be verified against externally sourced databases. Another option is the compulsory provision of taxation numbers to employers and financial institutions saving the cost of a separate administrative system. Legally authorized and publicly known matching of files between taxation and social welfare administrations could facilitate detection of social benefits fraud.

As proposed, a national identification system like the Australia Card cannot be accepted by a rational society such as Australia. If the Government was sincerely concerned about the level of tax evasion in this country then it should have attacked, through genuine tax reform, the unsatisfactory incentive structures inherent in Australia's taxation system.



Free speech is taking a battering on campuses around Australia, with the Left being the chief perpetrators. I'm not referring to the ANU Left's attempts to shout down Peter Shack and John Howard at the Education Policy Launch, or the censorship of WORONI or the ongoing practice of gagging Liberal speakers at SA meetings, although these incidents are serious enough. I refer instead to an incident at the University of Melbourne some weeks ago, and some interesting justifications the Left have given for their actions on this occasion.

Let me quote from the University of Melbourne's newspaper *Farrago*, 16 March 1987 as to what happened:

"Concrete Lawns: 11th March 1.00pm: the SRC organises an anti-fees rally and a sizeable crowd gathers to listen to student activists and politicians speak. One of the speakers calls for the demo to march over

to the PLT, where the Liberal Club has invited New Right demagogue Andrew Hay to express his opinions. Everyone seems a little surprised when the apparently somewhat uncertain and diffuse crowd does exactly that. Suddenly, removed from a large open space to a lecture theatre, the demo looks bigger, stronger and a hell of a lot angrier. Students squish into all corners of the PLT, surging on to the stage and chanting "go home". Hay is unable to continue: the original audience heckles the demonstrators and raises a "Free speech, free speech" chant, which is shouted down by a louder call for "free education". Eventually the crowd subsides enough to allow SRC President Evan Thornley to speak briefly. Hay's attempted response is shouted down once more; this demo obviously does not want to hear what he has to say. The noise continues; eventually someone rips the microphone out of the wall and it is, as they say, all over bar the shouting."

Now comes the interesting part: the Left's justifications for their actions. Let me first quote from the Editorial of the same *Farrago*:

"It's laughable to suggest that Andrew Hay was denied freedom of speech. He and his reactionary ilk can get their views expressed any day of the week simply by lifting the phone.

Andrew Hay knows the exact value of democracy down to the last dollar. Look at it another way - getting together and shouting down a representative of the New Right is the only opportunity for the powerless to express our right to free speech."

The editors don't seem to realise that the people originally listening to Hay and the organisers of his lecture wanted to hear what he had to say there and then and that Hay might have had something specific to say to his student audience. Free

speech means being able to say something when and where you want to, not at the pleasure of a rabble. It is also interesting that "powerlessness" is now seen as a licence to take away the rights of others. This sort of insensitivity to the concept of free speech is disturbing coming from a group of Editors, though not surprising given Left's history in this area.

The next quote comes from one Richard McCarthy in the same issue:

"Andrew Hay is a speaker for the New Right. The New Right, right or wrong? We already knew he was wrong. Fees is the most important issue facing students today, and when the anti-fees rally invaded his lecture, the New Right's speaker was forced to come clean about this position. People say that the demonstration was a travesty for freedom of speech, but I know it was a victory. Freedom of speech is an ideology that always means that the Left has no right to speak. You have only to look at the media coverage that Andrew Hay has had recently. The whole structure of our society and its media supports his right to speak. Between one and one-thirty the left was louder than the right, and all our small-L qualms about the freedom of speech were overcome. Anger is the only weapon we have, and those who disapprove of our expressing this anger should perhaps think about the consequences if social injustice remains unaddressed. Rage against repression can only build."

McCarthy and friends had already determined that Hay was wrong (no doubt without hearing a word he said) and just in case anyone might come to another conclusion, he was drowned out. If you thought Hay might be right, well tough luck. If Hay is so evidently wrong, why do they need to prevent him from speaking? One can only conclude the Left can't tolerate another point of view because they have no effective answer to it. Again the alleged existence of social injustice is used to justify taking away

the rights of others. McCarthy says freedom of speech works against him, so he has determined that others can't have it either, just to even out the score. The fact that Hay is a prominent employers' advocate and industrial relations expert counts for nothing. He can't have any greater say than a campus Leftie, otherwise social injustice exists; so goes one of the most self-serving arguments I've heard all year.

If the Left are confident in the intellectual integrity of their ideas, they should have no qualms about letting other people have their say. Unfortunately, as the New Right begins to undermine the intellectual hegemony of the New Class orthodoxy, we may well see increasingly desperate attempts to silence New Right speakers in a manner dangerous to the interests of the free and rational pursuit of ideas.

Stephen Kirchner

The Truth about Feminism

WITH GERARD WHEELER

Much has been touted in recent weeks promoting the use of condoms. The predominant reason for the condom push has, apparently, been to stop the spread of AIDS. For some, this was a sincere motive. But for others, it has provided the smokescreen necessary to disseminate

their pestilent views.

_____ feminists want to thrust total responsibility for contraception on to men instead of encouraging couples to share the duty. These feminist _____ believe that heterosexual contact is some form of conspiracy designed to belittle women and that other forms of contraception only tend to prop up a patriarchal society. This distorted attitude was revealed in a recent student publication from Melbourne University where it was asserted:

"contraceptives available put the responsibility on women. This is partly because most scientists are male, and partly because men are extremely reluctant to chemically interfere with their reproductive function."

The feminist author of the Melbourne University article then went on to consider what she believed were the benefits of using condoms. She boasted that condoms "can reduce sexual pleasure for men" and on this basis promoted their use.

In this warped article entitled "LITTLE CREATURES" the moral conviction held by some against using artificial contraception was attacked. In a message to Catholics the author squawked:

"overcome your aversion to bits of Protestant rubber and use contraceptives"

It is this disregard for individuals' moral integrity that is a hallmark of campus radical feminists. At the ANU,

the _____ Women on Campus and their sympathisers have attempted to influence the thinking of impressionable students. AIDS has provided the pretence to push their sordid condom propaganda. Freshers were told in the Orientation Handbook that condoms "stop you drippig for hours afterwards" and that "they stop you getting yukky boys' germs near you."

There is little wonder that the Handbook has been brought up in both State and Federal Parliament in recent days.

Rational students took a stand against Women on Campus in 1985 by eliminating their funding from the Students' Association. Obviously, this _____ group of feminists need the guidance of the rest of the campus again.

Lisa Woodgate,
Director of Student Publications



Action Against Fees

A rally against fees organised by the ANU Students' Association on March 31 was attended by over 400 students from Canberra and around Australia. The rally was organised to support a delegation of students from Sydney who were to meet Education Minister Susan Ryan at 4pm that agreed to the meeting during the student occupation of Education offices in Sydney the previous Wednesday.

With only a few days notice the SA managed to publicize the rally all over campus as well as the CCAE, Art School and at secondary colleges. Large and noisy contingents of students from Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Wagga livened up the rally considerably and students from as far afield as Perth, Queensland and even Darwin participated.

Starting in the Union Court at about 1pm the rally heard an update on the national campaign against fees from ANU student Sean Batt before marching off to Parliament House to chants of 'No Fees and Free Education Now'.

She said that Curtin had been the only Perth campus to organise an effective boycott and was therefore fairly isolated. She urged all campuses to organise a national boycott for next year. A motion of support for the boycotting Curtin University students was passed unanimously by the rally and received a standing ovation.

The next speaker, from the recently formed South Australian Tertiary Students Federation told the rally that a strong cross campus boycott campaign was underway in Adelaide. He also strongly urged the organisation of a national boycott campaign for next year.

A representative of the Melbourne University Students Union described the fee as a tax on education and questioned the economic sense of restricting access to education when what we supposedly need is better educated people to help restructure and modernise the economy.

ANU student Harriet Graham spoke about the need for students to form links with and support other groups in society who are coming under attack



After arriving at Parliament House the march was addressed by a student from Murdoch University in Perth who told us that 8,000 of the 12,000 students at Curtin University in Perth had yet to pay the fee. This was despite the fact that the administration had threatened to disenrol students who didn't pay by midnight on March 31.

from the government. She said the government was trying to isolate students by portraying us as spoilt rich kids who are demanding special treatment when everyone else is being asked to tighten their belts. The student movement must make it clear that we are not only against fees but that we are for making education accessible to

everyone, especially women, Aboriginals, migrants and low income earners who have traditionally been excluded from higher education.

There was a break in the speakers, as we listened to the thoughts of Finance Minister Peter Walsh on fees as interpreted by Andrew Major. This was followed by a tug of war between the politicians, including Walsh and Ryan, and students which resulted in the polities being dragged across the lawns.

Back on a more serious note the rally was addressed by Adrian Flood, President of the Macquarie University Students' Association, who had just arrived with a large contingent of students from Sydney. Flood explained what happened at the Free Education Rally in Sydney the previous Wednesday.

Over 6,000 students marched from Belmore Park to a rally at Town Hall for Free Education. After the rally 2,000 students then marched to the Education Department where about 250 students occupied the department offices the rest remaining outside.

Initially, neither the department's officers or the Minister would discuss the students' demands for Free Education but after two and a half hours Senator Ryan agreed to come to the phone. She refused to represent the students' claims for Free Education and declined to present them on their behalf to the Cabinet. She did however, agree to meet a delegation of students at 4pm the following Tuesday in Canberra.

After speaking to Senator Ryan the students were given 15 minutes by police to leave the building. As previous meetings with Susan Ryan had proved ineffective the students decided to continue the occupation to demonstrate their commitment to Free Education.

The police then proceeded, with identification numbers removed, to clear the building. The brutality of the police in doing this was well documented in the media at the time, a number of students were taken to hospital and 30 were arrested.

After hearing Adrian Flood's account of the rally in Sydney the previous week we lined up along the barricades outside Parliament House and chanted demands for Free Education and No Fees until the delegation from Sydney was due to meet Ryan.

After delaying the meeting for half an hour Ryan then refused to meet the delegation because there were five students instead of the four she had agreed to. The delegation refused to exclude one its members claiming that it was necessary to have five people for it to be representative of NSW students.

Students outside Parliament House were extremely angry at Ryan's refusal to meet the delegation and began chants demanding her resignation. Although the demonstration ended with Ryan refusing to meet the delegation the role it played in keeping the fees issue alive and keeping the pressure on the government was far more important





than another fruitless meeting with Ryan.

If we are to keep the momentum of the campaign going we need to keep organising rallies and informing students of the fees boycotts in other states. As well as the boycotts in Perth and Adelaide students from Latrobe University in Melbourne, University of Queensland and other smaller campuses are boycotting.

On March 25 large rallies at Griffith University and the University of Queensland were followed by a mass occup-

ation of the Education Department offices in Brisbane. On the weekend of April 4-5 a National Free Education Conference was held at the University of Queensland. This was attended by SA President Kate Andrews, and other ANU students who will report on actions planned by the conference when they return.

So the campaign for Free Education is alive and well and the number and strength of student actions around the country is obviously worrying the government. Susan Ryan was forced

to resort to branding students who demonstrated against fees as rich Liberal Party supporters rather than argue the real issue.

The comments of ANU Liberal student Cliff Smith on ABC radio after the Canberra rally showed that the Liberal students are perfectly willing to help Ryan avoid the issue by supporting her argument that students are spoilt rich kids.

In order to fight these attempts by

the government and the Liberal students to isolate the student movement we must continue to inform students and the general public about why we support free Education. If you are interested in helping out, the SA will be setting up a committee open to all students to campaign against fees and for free education. So if you want to become involved drop into the SA office and find out what we're doing. We need YOUR energy and ideas.

Rob Miller



FOTOS BY TANIA B.

The Threat of Nuclear War

NUCLEAR POLICIES OF THE U.S. AND THE U.S.S.R., THE UNSTABLE BALANCE

THE THREAT OF GLOBAL NUCLEAR WAR

Attempting to assess the likelihood of nuclear war, through an examination of stated NATO and Warsaw Pact policies is fraught with difficulty. Presenting a balanced view is virtually impossible given the lack of up to date Soviet information, which has not been written and published in the United States. Therefore I am forced to attempt to assess Soviet policies after they have been filtered through various levels of CIA censorship. The US publications are full of often subtle, but sometimes quite blatant propaganda. The general perspective presented is one in which the US is doing all in its power to prevent war, with its "Grand Moral Strategy" (Fisher: 1985), whilst the Soviets are presented as war mongering and evil. The result of the presentation of such an unbalanced view by the US can only be to perpetuate and intensify a mistrust of the Soviet people through misinformation. In turn, this is likely to increase the chance of nuclear war through perceived ideological differences.

Arms control talks between the superpowers have not had much of a history of success. W.T. Lee stated:

"About the only two areas of agreement between the US and the USSR are (1) that nuclear war is not 'totally inevitable' and (2) that neither power wants to initiate such a war, although neither trusts the other on this point." (Lee and Staar: 1986, page 193).

NATO POLICY: "Nuclear Deterrence?"

David Fisher in his book "Morality and the Bomb", a defence of the current US policy of "nuclear deterrence" argued that the cost of nuclear war between the superpowers has become unaffordable, including conventional war given that:

"There is an inherent risk of escalation to the nuclear level from the moment the first conventional shot is fired." (Fisher 1985, page 1)

Fisher argued further that the current US policy of nuclear deterrence is based on the notion of convincing the other side that:

"... there is no conceivable gain by posing an attack, and that neither (of the superpowers) can rule out the fact that the other side might use its nuclear ability if provoked (Fisher: 1985, page 6)

He believed that while both of these conditions are upheld neither side can 'rationally' attack the other (the idea of rationality is central to NATO policies, and will be considered further later). The arms balance, he claimed, must be maintained for stable nuclear deterrence. Unilateral disarmament by the US is equated with giving the Soviets an invitation to fulfil their desire for world domination! Soon after the development of a nuclear capability the US proposed a 'trip wire' strategy of response. According to this plan some hypothetical line was established. If the Soviets crossed this line the US would unleash a full scale nuclear response. However, in time the Soviets acquired the nuclear capacity, and the ability to respond to a US attack causing unacceptable casualties. The US, therefore, developed a new strategy, one of 'flexible response' (McNamara: 1962).

This new NATO strategy involved several levels of response to a perceived threat of attack. The first level involves political and economic pressure. The second level, a conventional response. The third, tactical use of nuclear weapons. The fourth an all nuclear attack (Vigenero: 1983).

The philosophy of 'flexible response' has developed alongside the development of tactical nuclear weapons. The US has claimed these weapons are necessary considering the Soviet rise to strength, and a corresponding decline in the effectiveness of the US armed forces. The Reagan administration has summarised the current US perception of the developments in the arms race over the last decade. They claimed we have witnessed...

"... a major transformation in the relationship of military strength, between the US and the Soviet Union the kind of transformation that historically is found prior to a major war." (Coker: 1983)



US strategists have claimed that their 'strategic weapons will soon be vulnerable to a Soviet First strike', and that airlift and sealift capacities of the Navy are 'barely sufficient'. The concern of this group is that at present they perceive the US at a disadvantage (Foreign Policy Research Institute, 1981).

These systems it was claimed, can attack a satellite outside the earth's orbit, a concern of the US since satellite-communication networks are an intricate component in their offensive and defensive systems.

Findings such as these have been used by the Reagan Administration to justify their recent proposals for a new "Strategic Defence Initiative" (SDI) with systems such as the space based "Starwars" proposal. Reagan's emphasis has been in using "beyond state of the art technologies" in the development of his space based systems. It is extremely expensive, and questionable whether the Soviets have the capability to develop similar systems (Lee and Staar: 1986, page 199). The aim is of course to develop a system which will place the US in a dominant position once again. The idea of being 'ahead' in the arms race defies rationality when we are talking of a nuclear war where already both sides have the capacity to destroy each other and the rest of the world many times over.

WARSAW PACT POLICIES:

As presented by the U.S.

United States authors present a very unbalanced view of the nature of the Soviet people and Soviet strategy in war. Professor Richard Pipes, of the US suggested that the differences between the Soviet and US strategy is in their conceptions of the role of conflict. He claimed:

"The Soviet ruling elite regards conflict and violence as natural regulators of Human affairs" (Kennedy and Weinstein: 1984 page 7)

Furthermore, he believed the Soviets did not view war as inevitable, in fact that they regarded war as 'politics pursued by other means' (Kennedy and Weinstein: 1984, page 7). The Soviets, he claimed, have rejected the idea of mutual deterrence in favour of building a large offensive force. Influential authors like Professor Pipes believe the Soviets view war as a catalyst for the inevitable advancement of socialism throughout the world (Kennedy and Weinstein: 1984, page 9).

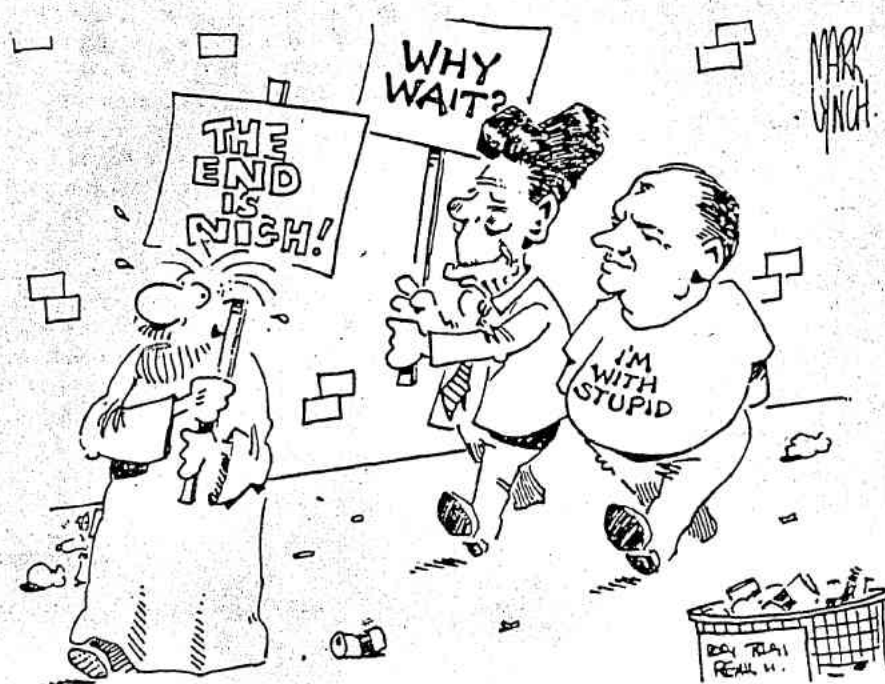
Frighteningly so, this idea seems to dominate the literature, from both academic and political sources:

Another aspect of the US presentation of the Soviets' view was revealed in a book titled "The Soviet Style in War" by Richard Leites. Leites attempted to predict how the Soviet Union might fight a future war, given the style of fighting in previous wars. He glossed over the fact that a future war, with nuclear weapons, would be fought radically differently from previous conventional wars. His central argument was that the Soviets do not believe in the idea of a limited scale war and their response to a threat will be in the form of the previous US "trip wire" response.



In contrast to the NATO strategy the Soviets seem to believe that Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) would be inevitable should a nuclear conflict be initiated either by one of the superpowers or from somewhere in Europe. (Openshaw et al.: 1983, page 183). If this is the belief of the Soviets and is reflected in their nuclear strategies; then it undermines the basis of the US nuclear policy which the US describe in terms of 'escalation control' and 'crisis management' (Fisher: 1985). Whilst the US may claim to hold generally to a policy of crisis management, they do not rule out the possibility of 'deliberate escalation' in an attempt to restore its 'territorial integrity and security as soon as possible, with as little violence as possible.' (Vigenero; 1983, page 10).

In contrast to the US the Soviets have made some very significant practical and philosophical steps towards achieving disarmament. These include the assurance they won't be the first to use nuclear weapons, and an offer to remove all medium range missiles from Europe. This is even at the risk of placing themselves in a strategically inferior position.



Environmental Consequences

A BREAKDOWN OF RATIONALITY

The apparently reassuring policies of the US assume rationality on the part of our leaders. If rationality can be judged by the success of US and Soviet politicians to have productive discussions in relation to arms control, then there appears to be little hope. Robert Poole pointed out that politics attracts 'precisely those people with the greatest lust for power' (Poole: 1984, page 324). Under normal, peace time conditions our politicians may display some degree of rationality given pressures from society and from other political parties. However, it has been noted that in the event of a nuclear conflict

"... there is obviously no certain way that the reactions of either side in such hypothetical circumstances can be predicted." (Foreign Policy Research Institute 1961: page 3).

Even NATO admits its policies are only applicable 'barring drastic and political upheavals' (Lee and Staar; 1986, page 187). Back in the real world (a world which nuclear strategists appear to be very distant from) it is these drastic political and economic upheavals which characterise the period leading up to a major war.

Openshaw *et al.* warn that given the present state of our nuclear world, "every war or period of international tensions involving nuclear weapons started on one of their (the superpowers) allies" threatens to escalate to a global nuclear war (Openshaw *et al.*; 1983, page 27). The Openshaw group also pointed out that the superpowers are currently involved in many wars in developing countries and conflicts such as these often gain their own momentum. If a situation intensifies the superpower has two choices, to back off and risk its credibility or to become further involved.

Up until now the use of nuclear weapons have been threatened or formally considered 30 times (Openshaw *et al.*; 1983, page 185).

With the breakdown of rationality, possibly resulting in some scale of conflict (whether conventional, limited scale nuclear, or full scale nuclear) there also follows a breakdown in communications, as communication facilities are prime strategic targets. One frightening consequence of this is the likelihood that the military will start to assume control of the course of events. It is well known that the military operate a different level of morality than the rest of society (as anyone who has been in the army or the army reserves will testify). Those in the army maintain conflict to have a far more important role as a regulator of events. This was illustrated in McNaught's book "Nuclear Weapons and Their Effects" in which he wrote:

"Thus their (nuclear weapons) very nature and the sometimes irrational emotions that are stirred up by their proposed use, the decisions to use such weapons is taken from the hands of the Commanders and retained under political control."
(McNaught: 1984, page 1)

It is worth reading this book to witness some of the ideals and values which operate in our 'defence' forces.



NUCLEAR WAR, BY ACCIDENT

Up until now I have examined the question of rationality and stability at a political level and to some degree a military level. However, even if one assumes that somehow the superpowers do have control over the nuclear situation, there still exists a threat of nuclear war being initiated by a mechanical malfunction (with some 50,000 warheads now in existence) or from Human error.

A field of psychology, Engineering Psychology, is devoted to studying the limits on Human performance in complex systems such as those which characterise nuclear reactors or missile silos. The series of events which led to the Three Mile Island meltdown "demonstrated as never before how vulnerable is the Human link in the performance of complex systems" (Wickens: 1984: page 1). Details of the events surrounding the Three Mile Island disaster, both because of its location in relation to a major city and the degree of involvement of civilian operators, were forced into the public domain. One wonders how many such Human errors have occurred in missile silos in the US and the USSR which have not been reported.

CLIMATIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF A GLOBAL NUCLEAR WAR

It has been suggested that the persisting after effects of a global nuclear war may be more of a threat to Human existence than the immediate effects of the blast. A major nuclear exchange would result in massive injections of smoke, ash and radioactive particles high into the atmosphere. The source of which would be extensive fires in forests and burning oil refineries, and cities. The injection of such a huge amount of foreign material into atmosphere is expected to result in prolonged darkness, abnormally low temperatures, violent wind storms, toxic smogs and persistent radioactive fallout. The sum total of these effects has been termed 'nuclear winter'. It has become clear to scientists in the last few years that a major nuclear war would result in a climatic disaster, the effects of which would be experienced worldwide. (Pittock: 1985).

Soon after the explosions of a major nuclear war thousands of individual smoke and dust clouds would be distributed throughout the northern hemisphere mid-latitudes at altitudes up to 30kmm. The total amount of smoke expected to be released from a baseline scenario may be in the order of 225 million tonnes (Woodwell: 1983). Pollack *et*

al have predicted that 100 million tonnes uniformly distributed as a single cloud mass would reduce the intensity of sunlight by as much as 95% (Pollack *et al.*: 1984). However, temperatures in continental interiors (such as Australia) may fall as low as -40 deg.C. This combined with the predicted dramatic increases in the UV radiation that causes skin cancer) reaching the earth would have catastrophic biological consequences

Traditional interpretations of post-nuclear war scenarios have included the coastal regions as the means of Human survival, for those who survive the initial effects.

Although temperatures may be significantly higher near the coastal areas than further inland, due to the moderating effects of the oceans, food sources in this region will be negligible. Fire, radiation, storms and other physical stresses will destroy much of the forest. The result will be unprecedented flooding and erosion. Toxic wash-out of radioactive particles will kill much of the fauna of both freshwater and coastal waters. In addition to cooling, once the smoke clouds clear ecosystems will have to contend with dramatically increased amounts of UV radiation, due to the destruction of the ozone layer.



There is still a very incomplete knowledge of our system, and the roles and interactions between the atmosphere, the oceans, the cryosphere (snow and ice), and biological systems, let alone, how these systems might react after the massive inputs of smoke, dust and gasses as a consequence of a major nuclear exchange. Less still is known about the ability of the global environment to survive after such a stress. And, ultimately, how Human and other animal species might cope with the physiological and psychological stress which would be placed on them. In the event of a nuclear war people would be forced to rely on natural systems for their survival. The recovery of society can not occur at a rate faster than the recovery the greatly stressed environment. The whole range of possible scenarios are full of unknown variables. What is becoming increasingly clear is that the effects of a major nuclear exchange would be felt globally, including non targeted areas. No longer can countries like Australia feel somehow immune from the possibly catastrophic consequences, which may be an end product of the uranium we sell world-wide.

Ian Fitzgerald

ANU Peace & Environment Group

For more information contact the Peace Centre on campus.

MISSILE DETECTION AND LAUNCH CENTRE



Mururoa—A Polluted Paradise

The article "Exploding the Mururoa Myth" written by Robert Douse and published in the second edition of WORONI consists mainly of half-truths and positive disinformation. To believe that nuclear testing does not harm the environment is to believe in the tooth fairy and Santa Claus.

The report to which Mr Douse was referring was the "Report of a New Zealand, Australian and Papua-New Guinea Scientific mission to Mururoa Atoll" and was produced by a six member scientific team. Their stated objectives were to investigate and report on any possible radioactive contamination of the environment, structural damage to the atoll, leaking of radioactive waste and to report on health statistics for the people of "French" Polynesia. (1)

In October 1984 Dr Matthias Tomczak of the Marine Studies Centre, University of Sydney, assessed this report and concluded that, in effect, it is little more than a whitewash over the damage actually caused by the testing. The report's conclusions are interesting for what they do not say, rather than what they do.

On page 78 of the report it states

"It should be understood that access was not possible to all data requested. Little data indicating post-test effects were made available. In addition, observation and inspection of the surface of Mururoa was restricted to a flight around the atoll . . . and a one-day inspection of part of the Southern margin . . ."

The French would not allow the mission to sample biota and sediments to study the effect of the low level radiation on the food chain, nor to study coral samples from the lagoon to determine the amount of dissolved plutonium that is likely to be present in the future. The French authorities also did not allow inspection of fissures generated by testing nor the collection of post-test data necessary for making a definitive assessment of the structural integrity of the volcanics. With such restrictive conditions imposed, how could the report's findings be taken seriously?

The scientists' report states that tests to date have not damaged the volcanic core beneath the coral atoll and that the rates of leakage, leaching and release of waste are at present acceptable.

However, the report does not consider the effects if testing is continued. Even if the volcanic structures do not fracture reports Dr Tomczak, leaching will extend to the upper coral layer within 450-4500 years. If they do, and in fact the scientists' report admits that "the volcanics have been severely altered in zones surrounding the detonation points," leaching into the coral and release into the ocean will occur within five years. While the balance of available data suggested that the overall structural integrity had not been impaired, key post-test data were not made available.

In other words, the tests may appear "safe" now, but if they continue, we risk contaminating the waters around Mururoa for millenia to come.

The report also discusses another effect of the testing, not on the volcanics but on the limestone layer above. The mission regarded the potential risk of

submarine slides, or slumping, as large, while the French have paid little attention to this: "Slumping" strips the atoll of its outer protective impermeable layer thus increasing the probability of fluid movements between the ocean and subsurface, where the test waste is stored.

If this flanking rock is removed ocean water flows freely through the reef without leaving any trace in the lagoon, where most monitoring is carried out.

Underground tests that have taken place since 1975 are anything but safe. In 1981, the French base commander, General Rouger, reported that each blast had caused the entire atoll to sink about 2 cm - 1.2 m drop in all. This sinkage, coupled with a particularly fierce storm that hit the atoll on 22nd March 1981, caused a huge garbage-heap of radioactive waste to be swept into the sea and to find its way inevitably to the residents' living quarters.

On the island of Mangereva 550 km from Mururoa the Polynesians there can no longer eat the fish in their waters - they now live on corned beef imported from Australia. The fish have been poisoned by the radioactivity from Mururoa. The French will not allow the level of radioactivity to be measured - Geiger counters are banned throughout "French" Polynesia - they have in fact banned all visitors to Mangereva.

Nevada's underground test site was used by Mr Douse as proof of how harmless these tests are. However the US Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources held hearings in Salt Lake City in April '82 to investigate the effects of the tests on the inhabitants.

In one small town only four families out of 50 had no cancer in their family; one family had seven different people with cancer. The government had described the area where the testing was done as "virtually uninhabited", similar no doubt to the French description of the South Pacific.

The French government is destroying the homes of the Polynesians who live in the South Pacific without even a pretence of consultation.

Mururoa is a part of France's South Pacific strategy, along with New Caledonia and thus France's eagerness to have support for its testing program is partly due to the link between this program and international views on colonialism.

There is no myth about Mururoa. While the scientists did attempt to discover the effects on the atoll it is obvious that the French would allow nothing more than a superficial study.

It is up to us to do something now, before the radioactive levels do become hazardous to the rest of the Pacific, and to Australia.

If you're interested in learning more about the South Pacific why not:

Contact the Peace & Environment Group through the S.A. Office - or come to the next meeting.

keep an eye out for information on the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty.

write to the French Ambassador expressing your outrage at their continued abuse of Mururoa.

Sue & Helen
Peace & Environment Group

From Our Arctic Correspondent....

A man, chartered a plane and flew to Eagle Plains, with family. His prime motivation: Spend Cash. He had lots of it, and where he lived there was nothing to spend it on. His name "Woody".

Eagle Plains, a plain found on the Dempster Highway, the last haven before the Arctic Circle, with one hotel, complete with a gas station and a workshop. The hotel is there to catch lonely travellers when they get stuck in the Richardson Range. Prices are more than exorbitant, no problem for Woody and family.

Woody is a successful trapper here in the Yukon, Canada's arctic province. He comes here to treat family and friends to fun. Fun in the form of alcohol.

Me and my mate were one of those lonely travellers stuck there. It was winter, the road was a snow covered gravel road, it was cold, the northern lights here dance in the sky, above the

white barren scenery. They flash and play with awe-inspiring energy. If you whistle at them they seem to dance to it, something incredible to watch, a true spectacle in the heavens.

The lights, indicating a closed road, flashed brightly at Eagle Plains. Would they flash for hours or for weeks? No one knows. It is chance.

We were introduced to Woody and family, and we got fun alright, lots of it. We were stuck for 3 days and 3 nights in the hotel, compliments of the holitions, spend a day trapping on skidoos, slept that night in their tent in the arctic, in the North-West Territories, the state next to the Yukon, an hour's drive from Eagle Plains on the Dempster, in the foothills of the Richardson Range.

We left the car near Rock River, next to the government road-clearing equipment shed. We didn't plug the car in, a fatal error on our behalf. Andrew spent the good part of one day getting it started using propane torches and patience. The battery was frozen too, so was the anti-freeze in the radiator and all our food. Andrew froze his finger-

tips in the process, not as bad as the frost-bite on his cheeks when we helped a truck get out of trouble, up the pass.

Minus forty is not too beneficial for engines we found out. Next time we will make an effort to plug the lower-radiator heating hose gadget in!

When the road was open we wasted too much time, at least 40 minutes, forty crucial minutes, the snow drifts had covered portions of the road, and we got stuck. Thanks to some brilliant ideas of Andrew we got out within four and a half hours of heavy work in the dark and cold night. We were lucky, it was only -20 or so. Next time we must make a point of travelling in front of a 4WD or a semi, our Dodge Dart is just not really suitable.

We made it to Inuvik the end of the Dempster Highway a few days later without too many problems. As far as maps were concerned we were as far north as we could drive, no roads from here on. We were not yet satisfied, and after a two day recuperation period we headed north again.

We drove onto the Mackenzie River, which is frozen over and cleared the snow to make an ice-road to allow access to

supply-trucks for Esso and Chevron, oil ventures further north. The river was a rally driver's heaven, wide open and pretty well frictionless. The car became our toy as we spun around and around in large circles, opened her up to 80 miles per hour, cruising on the river. Traffic was scarce, a few trucks and 4WDs passed us when we stopped to plug up drafty cracks and holes in our car.

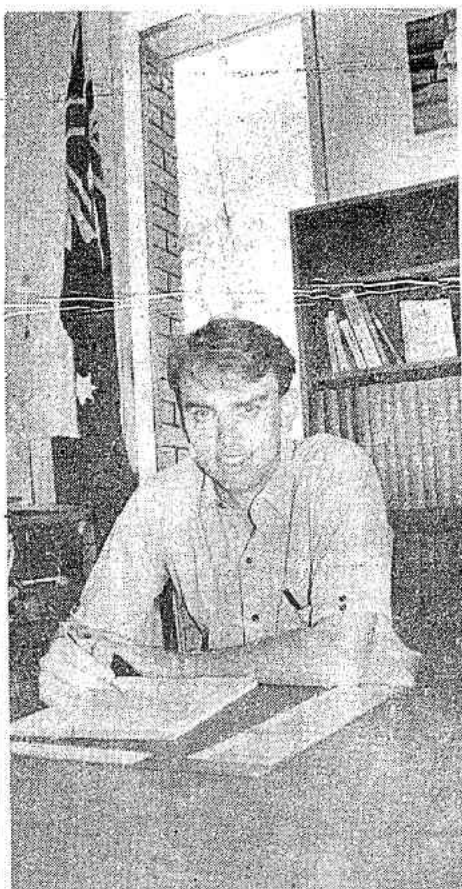
Soon we got the rope out and my skis, downhill skis: there I went at 80 mph on ice. I was just about getting into doing jiffy things at 50 mph when I was attacked by a speeding ice rocket. It took 10 minutes for me to realise it was painful!

The temperatures of -30 (plus a more than substantial windchill factor for me) and the vibrations were not very beneficial for my boots, both of them damaged to the hard plastic shell!

Now we are in, Tubroyaktuk, having a long break both looking for a job, both settled in with respective friendly partners who will supervise us tomorrow in building a true blue igloo where we can camp in -50 degree C. temperatures.

That's it for now, this was Wally from Tubtoyaktuk in Arctic Canada for Woroni

YOUR NEW UNION



"The Union Board has obtained a \$1 million dollar loan and a \$250,000 grant from the University to renovate and redesign the ANU Union Building. A contribution by the Union of a further \$250,000 means a total of \$1.5 MILLION is to be spent to take our facilities into the twenty-first century. Through this supplement the Union Board wants to present to members our plan for the Union's future."

In November 1985 a survey of ANU Union members showed an overwhelming demand for a refurbished building and changes in the mix of services provided by the Union. The survey showed 88.4 percent of members wanted the Union to be refurbished and only 6.0 percent wanted no refurbishment. A policy of the Better Management Team (BMT) which won all elected positions on the Union Board in 1986 was to refurbish the whole Union Building and introduce a shopping mall. NOW WE HAVE TURNED THAT PROMISE INTO REALITY.

Now, I will take you on a tour of the new Union as shown on the inner pages of this supplement. You are welcome to see me personally (or any other member of the Union Board) to discuss these plans.

Apart from the issue of what is done physically, there is the issue of how it is paid for. Through operating the Union along business principles the Union's profitability has been increased. Along with this, revenue from rental income should cover about half the \$180,000 per annum cost of repaying the loan with interest, and increases in sales resulting from more attractive and efficient operating areas will easily cover the remainder.

The Board appreciates your support and will continue to keep you up to date as information arises.

Yours,
Bob Wheeldon
chairman

YOUR NEW GAMES ROOM

This will be an open area at the end of the University Bar.

YOUR INTERNATIONAL BISTRO

The current University Bar will be refurbished to become what is now the Asian Bistro. As with the coffee shop customers will be able to sit on the patio in the sun and have a quiet drink and conversation.

YOUR NEW OFFICES

The Union and Students' Association Offices will be moved beside each other in the Bridge and Games Room. There will be access to them via a new set of stairs on the west end of the building.

YOUR NEW BRIDGE

Forty percent of the Bridge will remain as a quiet area in which to read and watch the day go by. At night-time and on weekends the Union will encourage this area to be used as both a meetings room and sports bar. Access through to the Sports Union will be retained.

YOUR NEW MEETINGS ROOMS

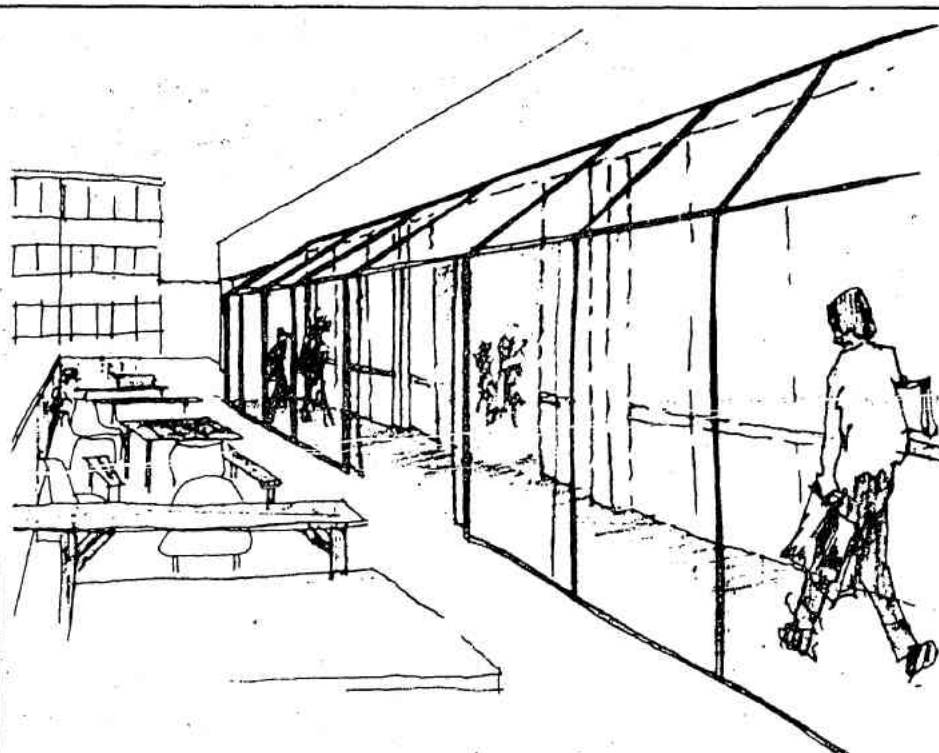
One large meetings room and one smaller meetings room (special interest groups room) will be provided on the first floor of the Union. Both rooms will be open for bookings by any student groups.

YOUR NEW EXTERIOR

There will be a new set of stairs at the west of the building near the Bridge. The exterior of the Union will be painted and awnings will be placed over the main Union entrances so they are easily identifiable.

YOUR NEW FUNCTIONS CENTRE

By moving our functions area upstairs it is possible to ensure it be kept to a very high standard. Its entrance and general quality is improved so as to encourage more groups to hold functions in the Union.



YOUR NEW ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

The current refectory area and bistro area on the ground floor will be combined into an entertainment area. The door will be upgraded to meet fire regulations and the bar will be moved downstairs. Thus, the downstairs area will become a major concert venue which does not conflict with putting on functions. Concerts from 200 to over 1,000 people would be catered for.

YOUR NEW COFFEE SHOP

Where the current Students' Association Offices are at the eastern end of the 1st floor the new Coffee Shop will be able to open until late at night. Being in one of the sunniest areas of the Union people may wish to sit on either the eastern or northern patio at the sides of the coffee shop. The main reason for the move is to place "impulse", highly used and attractive services near the main traffic floor.

YOUR NEW CHAPLAINS

Two chaplains, a Catholic and Protestant one, will both have offices. The Chaplains will be full-time and provide a very valuable service to the university community.

YOUR NEW FOYERS

Wind lobbies will be included at all major entrances to give some protection from the cold. The upstairs and downstairs foyers will be tiled and two skylights included in the upstairs foyer area. The void which currently exists above the main stairway will be covered over and the main stairway re-tiled.

YOUR NEW BAR

The ANU Bar will be moved downstairs to where the current bistro and health food bar are now located. As part of the new entertainment centre moveable walls would result in the bar area being variable in size depending on the expected crowd.

YOUR NEW BEER GARDEN

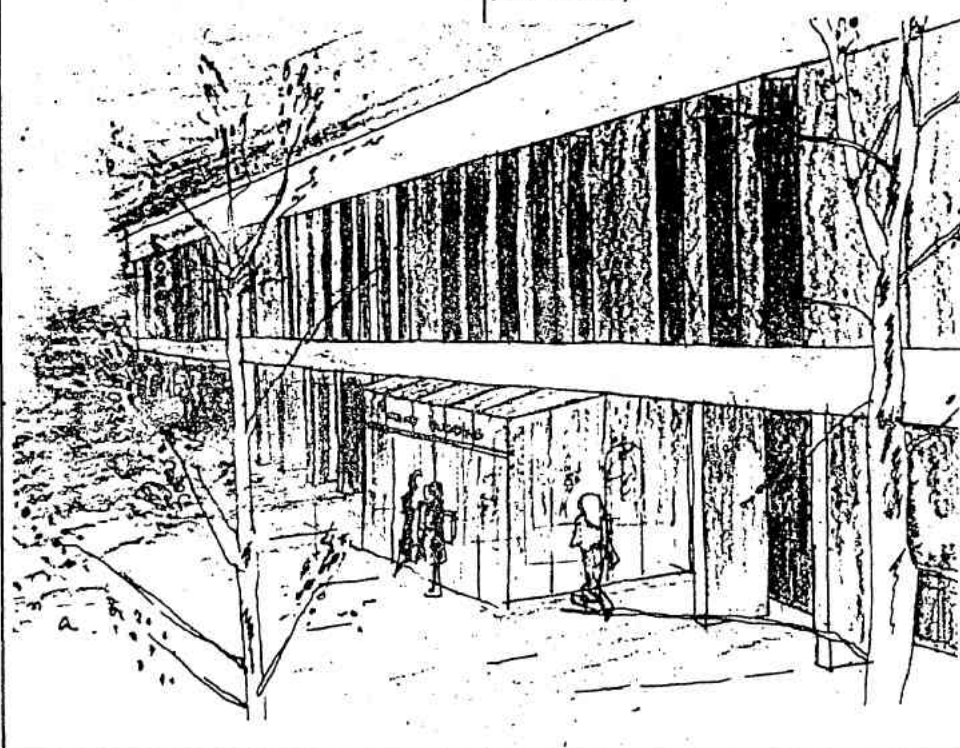
Located at the south west side of the building beside Sullivan's Creek, Garden will provide an alternative to the upstairs bar patio. Being in a very sunny area and already having an outside serving point this location is perfect for a beer garden.

YOUR NEW SAFETY

At the moment the Union is lagging behind both health and fire safety regulations. An important part of the renovations includes compliance with fire regulations through safe doors and installation of an extra toilet block which will provide both the ground and 1st floors with new toilets.

YOUR NEW SHOPS

As promised we are introducing a small shopping mall to the Union. This will include five shops downstairs and about three upstairs. We have already organised an icecream shop, an optometrist a general grocery store, a hairdresser and a hot bake to supplement the Union Shop and Uni-Sec Wordprocessing on the ground floor. Soon we will be looking for more tenants to fill the upstairs areas. The shops should guarantee the Union rental income of about \$60,000 per annum.

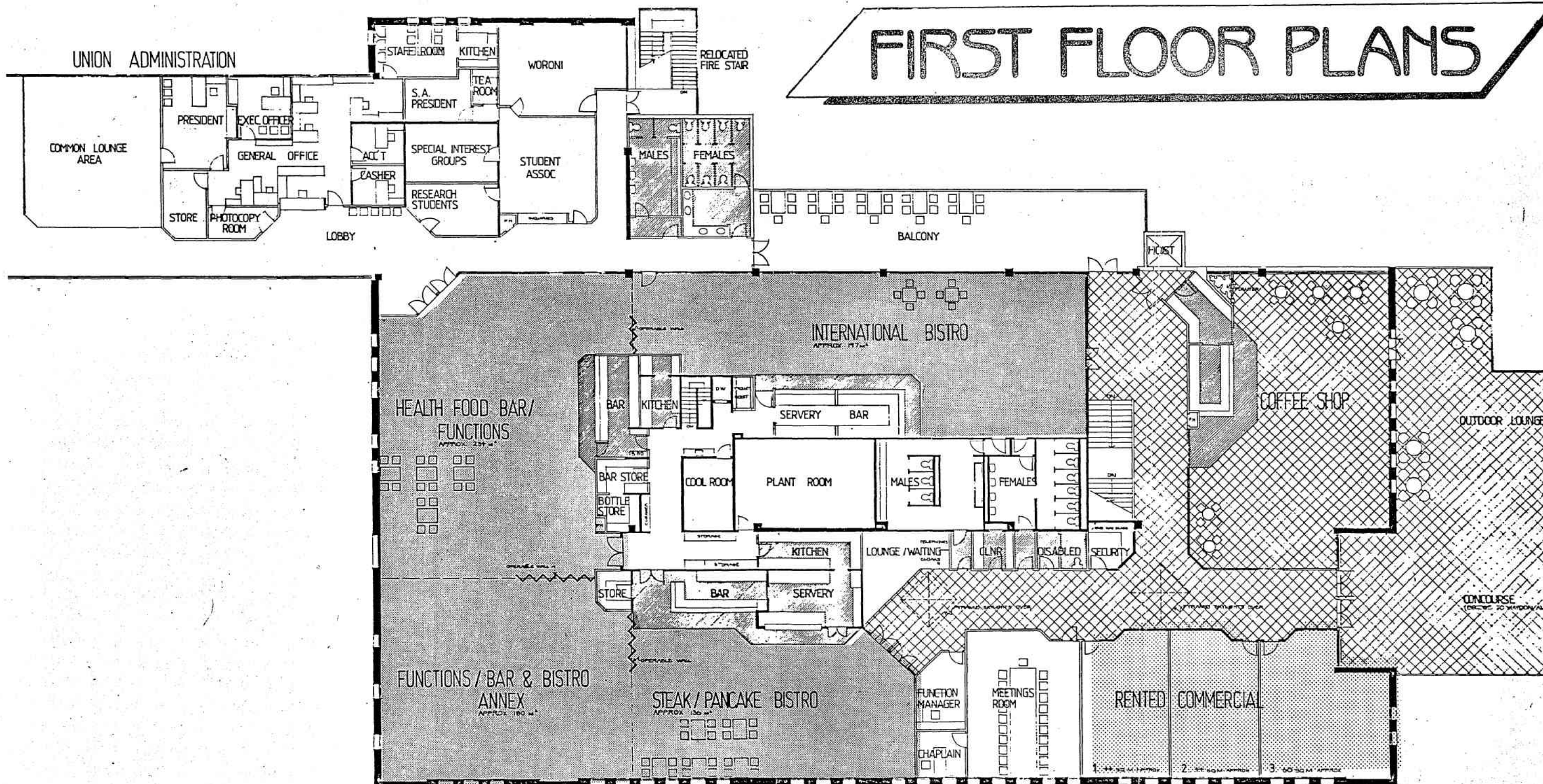


Union & S.A. Offices

Eating Areas

Coffee Shop

FIRST FLOOR PLANS



STOP SLAVERY CAMPUS APPEAL

APRIL 27 — MAY 1

WHEN DEBT MEANS SLAVERY

"They have bought our body, life and soul and, we have sold ourselves to them as we have no other way to live."

The words of a bonded labourer from the Raipur District, India

Debt is something we're all familiar with. Student loans, hire purchase, overdue rent or owing money to friends are only some of the ways we find ourselves 'in debt'. Indebtedness is at best a hassle and often a major problem but for us it doesn't mean loss of our very basic freedoms.

From Debt to Slavery

For many Indians, however, debt literally means slavery. In desperate need of credit and without the securities necessary to take loans from official banking or credit institutions, India's poor are forced to borrow from landed money-lenders who willingly accept the borrower's labour power as repayment.

The debtor and his or her family work without pay for up to 14 hours per day until the debt and accrued interest are repaid in full. This usually takes at least a lifetime and often longer, with sons, daughters, wives and other relatives taking over the debt following the death or disability of the original borrower. For an initial small outlay in the form of a 'loan' and the ongoing cost of keeping the labourer alive (at most a few bowls of grain each day) the money lender has effectively bought himself a lifetime or longer of labour — or in other words a slave. Any extra costs in the form of clothing, medical expenses and so on are simply added to the original debt and in this way the period of indebtedness is continually increased.

Legislative Change — Is It Sufficient?

Although declared illegal by the 'Bonded Labour System Abolition Act' of 1976 there are currently an estimated five million bonded labourers in India. Half of these borrowed simply to meet basic daily food and shelter requirements, while 20 percent didn't even take out the loans themselves but have inherited them from other family members. Many were 'mortgaged' to the local landlord by their parents at the age of only seven or eight and because of accumulated loans for clothing and other necessities

have spent a lifetime in bondage.

The 1976 legislation was not widely publicised and most of India's bonded labourers remained totally unaware of their newfound rights. Of those who did gain their 'freedom' over one third were soon back in debt and bondage. After all without support or resources what can a person who has spent a lifetime in slavery do to make ends meet?

In the words of one such victim:

"They told us that we were free but they did not tell us what we should do with our freedom. They did not give us food so I still have to work for the same landlord."

But this is gradually changing . . . and the Community Aid Abroad (CAA) 1987 Campus Appeal is part of this change.

New Directions

In recent years a group of Indian lawyers calling themselves Chhattisgarh Krishak Mazdoor Sang (CKMS) has been helping India's 'slaves' fight for their right to freedom. Numerous enquiries and court cases have already led to the release of thousands of people. And the work of the CKMS does not stop at legal aid. The need for support, rehabilitation and resources following release from bondage is well recognised and forms a central part of the campaign. For example negotiations between the CKMS and the State Government in the Raipur District have resulted in each bonded labourer in this State being provided with 500 rupees (\$50) upon release.

The 1987 Campus Appeal

Community Aid Abroad (CAA) is about helping people to help themselves and the aim of this year's Campus Appeal is to raise funds to start a credit co-operative and seed bank to be controlled and used by a thousand recently released labourers of the Madhya Pradesh Region. Through this self-administered project these labourers will be able to borrow the money and seed that will enable them to buy and farm their own land. Seed will be repaid in kind after the first crop so that the supply remains available for others, and as each farm venture becomes viable the money will be gradually repaid to the co-operative and made ready for the setting up of yet another farm venture.

The 1987 Campus Appeal is being held on universities and CAEs around Australia, including, for the first time, at ANU. It's happening during the last week of first term — April 27 to May 1 and is being co-ordinated by the CAA ANU group.

Activities during the week will include:

- * lunchtime speakers and films
- * craft, food information stalls
- * selling raffle-tickets (1st prize: 2 STA tickets to India; 2nd prize: a Pioneer car stereo system)
- * an evening of Asian food and music (planned for early second term)

Further details will be available on posters and pamphlets closer to the Appeal week.

The ANU Community Aid Abroad group meets on Thursdays at 1.00 in Rm G21, Haydon-Allen Building. Everyone is welcome to come along. For more info, contact Robyn on 494570 (w) or Jenny on 810429 (h).

The Campus Appeal has been a success on other campuses over the last few years, raising money and awareness to overcome poverty in different areas of the world. With the support of ANU students, staff and clubs, it can be a success at ANU too.



THESE ARE OUR PLANTS!

Last year Australian tertiary students and staff donated over \$20,000 to a "Seeds for Change" Campus Appeal. The Appeal was co-ordinated by Community Aid Abroad but run by each individual campus in their own way. The rice plants you see in the photo were grown from seeds bought with money raised in the 1986 Appeal. They were planted in Mozambique as part of a Community Aid Abroad funded and locally administered and controlled project. Recent government cuts to development aid mean that independently funded projects like this one are increasingly vital to the Third World.

This year there will be another campus appeal and this campus is taking part in it. In common with the 1986 appeal all the funds will end up being handled by the people who need them and used in the way they want them used. And all the money will get to where it's supposed to go. But this year a different project will be supported. All the money we raise will go towards setting up a credit co-operative for recently released debt slaves in the Madhya Pradesh State in India (Yes: Slavery still exists and you can expect to hear far more about it in the next few weeks).

The 1987 Appeal will be held in late April/early May and needs all the support it can get.

CULTURE SHOCK? from a fresher ...

Despite the increment of the Overseas Students' Charge there is still a large, and growing number of overseas students at the ANU. This article is written by a first year Asian student (Jenny Chan is a pseudonym) expressing her reaction to this life away from home.

Hi! I'm Jenny Chan and am living in one of the halls of residence at the ANU.

This is the very first time I have left my home country to come to Canberra to further my studies.

Initially, my main worry was to arrive in Canberra safely. Socializing never posed a problem to me, therefore I would never have foreseen the situation in which I now find myself.

When I first arrived in Canberra, a friend relieved me at the airport. I had her feelings of excitement and anticipation.

As my friend isn't living in the same place as I am, we had to part by the end of the day. For the first time I was totally alone: I had great difficulty in getting to know the Australians in the hall. They just did not pay any attention to me and they seemed very engrossed in their own conversations. I began to worry.

Over the next few days, I applied a "wait and see" policy. More and more Australians were coming in and everybody was so busy embracing each other that nobody took any notice of my presence. For the first time in my life I really felt awkward, frustrated and dejected.

Back home, I am usually able to introduce myself and get the conversation rolling with people that I meet, why on earth am I so tongue-tied now?

When I voiced my frustrations to some of the foreign students who have been in Australia for quite some time, they suggested that perhaps the Australians considered my behaviour to be proud and rude. On my part, because I was different (being an Asian in a predominantly all-white college), I felt, and still feel intimidated and therefore need to know that I am accepted by the people around me before I have the courage to talk. Therefore a friendly smile is sufficient to set my heart at peace and enough to give me the courage to talk. The main reason why I need the encouragement is simply because I do not want to be embarrassed when people just walk out of my conversation. Because of this, I am very silent, and patiently waiting for your response. I did not realise that my silence would be misunderstood as unfriendliness.

I was told that I have to be daring and aggressive. In other words to make my presence known to everyone and not otherwise. Unfortunately I was not brought up in that way and I am trying very hard to take the initiative in greeting my fellow friends here.

Despite my efforts, some just responded by looking away from me or just looking down at the ground. Not wanting to be rejected again and again, I just keep quiet, when I meet the same person again. But some are really friendly and they even take the trouble of showing me around. So it really puzzles me why there are two complete opposite responses.



I do not know whether all overseas students have the same reactions as I, for am forced to search for students that have come from my country or neighbouring countries in despair.

All I want is to have friends and I am not particular as to which country they come from. However, under these circumstances, I am unfortunately forced to choose my friends from a restricted category.

From my observations, I also realise that all the Asian students tend to group together. This is especially obvious in lecture theatres. I guess on reason may be other overseas students are facing the same problems as I.

I also gather from some of my overseas friends that they have problems in speaking English. Hence it is extremely difficult to comprehend what the Australians are saying. Even if they do understand, they find difficulties in expressing them-

selves. This is another reason why they prefer to be with their native friends.

I do not find conversing in English a problem, but it is my accent that worries me. I am not speaking English with an Australian accent. I do not know whether it is simply my being too sensitive, or is it true to say that the Australians cannot accept me just because I do not speak with their accent. This impression is very evident when I observe that though there are some Asians who — because they have lived long enough in Australia to acquire an Australian accent, are very readily accepted. I do hope to be proven wrong, otherwise I can foresee a lot of problems ahead of me until I have mastered the Australian accent.

My circle of friends is growing but I am only getting to know a handful of Australians. As the year progresses I'll be looking forward to having more Australian friends. After all, I am in Australia.

from a veteran...

Starting a new phase in one's life is hard enough to adjust to without the additional traumas of living away from home for perhaps the first time ever and being thrust into an unknown environment and unfamiliar people. If this is coupled with being faced with a totally alien way of life where one stands out because of one's colour, facial features or speech patterns, not to mention cultural and religious attitudes, one can then begin to understand just what an overseas student must come to terms with when he or she embarks on an overseas education.

It would be all too easy for some to point out all the negative aspects of being a foreigner in Australia. One has to tread cautiously when discussing inter-racial relations for that dreaded word 'racism' hovers constantly overhead waiting to point an accusing finger.

For an overseas student, life at the ANU can be a memorable experience if one is prepared to participate in the various activities on campus. Relatively

speaking the campus is a small one and it is quite easy to make a lot of acquaintances — the cliché of a 'small world' holds true very often here. However upon closer scrutiny it is sad to see that there is not as much interaction between the Asian and Australian students as one would wish. The presence of the Asian Studies faculties and the various overseas students associations does its fair share to promote cultural awareness. The culmination of these efforts is seen in the form of various cultural evenings held throughout the year. Sadly however, the attendance by Australian students to such functions is not as high as one would like.

By the same token, one does not find a large number of Asian students frequenting the Union Bar or attending many of the Hall activities since their taste does not often run to large consumptions of alcohol and live band music. It would seem then that this is very much a case of 'to each his/her own' and there would not seem to be much hope of Asian-Australian inter-

action. Nevertheless, hard as it might seem to find mutual grounds on which both groups can socialise, the need must always remain to try.

The accusation has often been hurled at the Asian students of being a rather elitist group. This not without its justifications — on campus one does not often see mixed groups of Asians and Australians whiling away the time. In fairness to the overseas students it must be said that their initial need to seek out fellow overseas students is only a natural reaction in the event of being in an unfamiliar environment. One draws comfort from all things familiar of home. But having achieved this, it is also all too easy to become settled into this atmosphere of a 'home away from home' without then making any attempt to assimilate into one's new surroundings. It is important to have an awareness of the country in which you are living, albeit temporarily. It is very easy to complacently feel that surrounded by fellow overseas students, there is no need to mix and get to know the Aust-

ralian students. Forming such 'cliques', persisting in only speaking one's native language and making no attempt to widen one's horizons, one might as well have remained at home rather

than travelled abroad. An overseas education should combine an enrichment of one's knowledge of things both cultural as well as academic. Therefore to not see the need to become aware of what life in Australia is all about and to get to know the Australians themselves, is not to make full use of the opportunities available to overseas students. Moreover, it almost hints at an 'arrogance' of sorts on the part of the overseas students that they feel justified in coming to a foreign country but blithely ignoring the fact that they are guests and as such should make an attempt to be acquainted with one's host.

There is no simple solution to this segregation problem. But this does not mean that both parties should give up. After all, there will only be mutual gain to new friendships formed.



Jules Twigg

GETTING STARTED

In this edition, the Student Broker will explain the basic approaches that should be taken if you are interested in investing in the stock market. He will outline the various types of shares that can be purchased, the costs involved in buying and selling these shares, and explain how an investor can gain access to a stock-broker. Finally, he will give a few words of advice, which should at least be thought about by serious investors in the stock market.

BASIC APPROACHES

Select your Aims

The first thing you should do before committing any funds, is to work out your investment aims. The basic investment goals

you can aim for are capital gain, income flows, or a combination of both, depending on which one suits you best.

When aiming for capital growth of your funds by investing in the share-market it is important to consider whether you desire short or long term gains. If the funds you are investing are not required immediately, then you should aim at slow growth stocks which have established past performances. These include such companies as BHP Lt., or Western Mining Corporation, which have proven records and are continually growing and expanding their operations. Alternatively, if you are more daring, and want to make a fast dollar, you can speculate on quick increases in a company's share price. This is a more risky form of investment but offers greater rewards. Types of stocks which you can speculate on include cheap 20c Gold Stocks.

Alternatively, if you are merely aiming for steady flow of income, there are several types of investment. You can again invest in proven stocks, which consistently pay their shareholders good dividends.* Or you can indirectly invest in the stock market through what are known as share trusts. Your money is put into a fund where it is professionally managed by people who have vast experience and knowledge of the Stock Market. In recent years, this has been a very successful form of investment, with trusts frequently returning dividends greater than those being returned from stocks listed on the stock market.

ASSESS YOUR RISKS

When investing on the stock-market you are undertaking several types of risks. The first risk is that you may not receive the earnings that you expect from a particular stock, possibly through a change in the economic climate.

The possibility also exists that you could lose some, or even all of your money. This of course all depends upon what types of risks you are prepared to undertake when choosing to buy a particular stock. Finally, there is the risk that your investment is not out performing the inflation rate. In this situation it is important to look at your aims. It may just be a stage in the way to a long term goal, or it could be the time to reassess your investment choice.

The stock market provides a direct link between the risk you are prepared to take, and the reward you expect to receive. The higher the risk you take, the greater are the rewards you could receive, and vice versa. The risk that you are prepared to take is entirely at your discretion, and should be thought about when working out your aims.

ACCESS TO THE STOCK-MARKET

It is very important to have access to the stock market, to keep an eye on your money. This can occur directly, through phone contact to your stock-broker, who will have

up-to-date information and news on your investment. Or you can simply look at the newspaper or listen to television reports.

It does not matter what method you adopt, as long as you are constantly monitoring price fluctuations. By doing this, you can profit from favourable price movements, and not lose out on any investment opportunities.

Next week I will explain how you go about monitoring your investment and how to read the financial press.

TYPES OF SHARES

There are many different forms of securities listed on the stock market. I will explain the two most popular, and simple forms of shares.

Ordinary Shares: — a unit or part ownership of a company's capital, which has a par value — commonly either 50c or \$1. The par value is simply the price the share is issued at, and bears little relation to the price of the share quoted on the stock exchange floor.

Preference Shares — Rank above ordinary shares for claiming on dividend payments or assets on the company in the case of a liquidation. The investor pays more money for these additional privileges. The shares come in different forms, but usually all have a fixed dividend rate.

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ESTABLISHED 1857

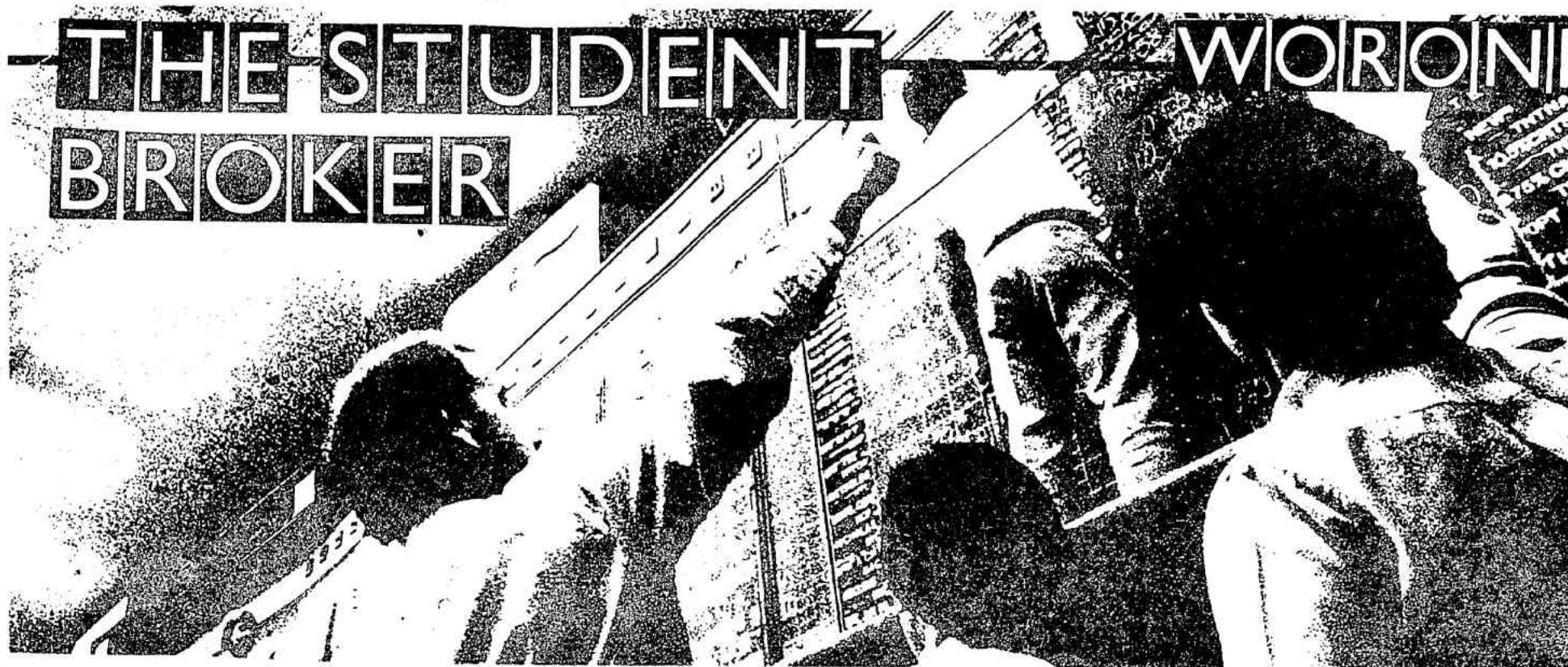
Member Corporation of the Australian Stock Exchange Limited



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Sharebroking, Trusts, Equity, Options, Mortgages, Retirement.

THE STUDENT BROKER



YOUR STOCK BROKER

If you want to buy and sell shares on any Australian Stock Exchange, you must use a member firm of the exchange (commonly known as the stock broker) to act as your agent, and for that you will be charged a fee, called brokerage.

The rate of brokerage which you are charged, varies between member firms. However, the rate charged by all firms decreases proportionally with the amount of money that you invest. On top of the brokerage fee, you are also charged a nominal amount by the State Government in Stamp Duty.

Brokerage is charged for both your purchase, and sale of shares.

MAKING CONTACT

If you don't already know a broker or someone who does, then there are several ways to make contact. You could look through the phone book, and pick one out, ring them up and find out the possibility of investing with them. However, as stockbrokers vary depending on their clientele, you may not get someone to suit your needs.

Alternatively, you could approach the Stock Exchange in any State, as they all have Advisory Services. However if living in Canberra makes this difficult, I could lend you a hand by giving you names of proven stockbrokers who could cater for your particular needs. Messages can be left for

me in the Woroni Office in the S.A. Office, Union Building.

SERVICES PROVIDED

A stockbroker acts for people who want to buy and sell shares, but most investors find that their client-broker relationship extends beyond this to the overall management of their money. You can seek individual advice from your stockbroker on the types of investment best suited to your needs which may also include investments in activities outside the share market. A stock-broker will plan your investment portfolio, and regularly review it for you.

As well as expert advice, a stock-broker can provide you with other useful services, including detailed analyses of recent economic or stock-market trends and reports and recommendations on certain companies. This usually occurs in the form of regular newsletters, enabling you to keep abreast of current trends. Finally, a stock-broker will process all the paper work involved in share market trading.

WORDS OF ADVICE

It is sound investment advice, particularly for beginners, to buy only stocks that are listed on the Stock Exchange. This is by no means a guarantee of success, but it does guarantee that a basic set of requirements as set down by Stock Exchange committees which are designed to protect

investors' rights, has been met. It is also sound advice to deal only through member organisations i.e. -stock-brokers, as they are also subject to strict regulations. They also have direct access to the stock-market, and the most recent news and expert advice, on any share market development.

Do not be too ambitious when starting out. Be careful and only invest as much money as you can afford to pay. As you become more experienced, you can begin to take more risks.

Do not put all your eggs in one basket. It is a good idea to diversify, by putting your money into shares in an area of the economy with which you are familiar. Be wary of tips, as the majority of them are old information that have already been acted upon.

Finally, it is better to take a profit when the market is rising, than to be greedy, and watch your shares go to the top and go all the way down again - you can never lose if you always take a profit when it is there.

Definition Section

* **Dividend** - Distribution of part of a company's net profit to shareholders as a reward for investing in a company. Usually expressed as a percentage of par value or as cents per share.

In this issue, the Student Broker presents the first in a series of stockmarket reports. In future editions, he will keep readers up-to-date with developments in the market and below deals with the newly created Australian Exchange

Market Report

On April 1st, the final steps were laid down for total deregulation of the stockmarket. The last vestiges of the 19th Century clubs, which have characterized exchanges in years gone by, have been swept away as the individual State exchanges come under the umbrella of the newly created Australian Exchange.

Ownership of stock-broking firms has now been extended to full foreign and corporate ownership in line with the recommendations made by the Campbell Committee's report on the Australian financial system. This will mean that many smaller brokers will lose their separate status altogether, as they become large, multinational financial intermediaries.

Next week the Student Broker will explain the process by which you go about monitoring your investment, once you have invested in the stock market.

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Sharebroking, Trusts, Equity, Options, Mortgages, Retirement.

Thursday 16 April 1987

23

turn around

Zacariah! Don't!
Don't turn around Zacariah,
There's a shadow behind you,
Dying to get in and follow your mind.

Don't look up
Don't ever look up.
There's a mountain there Zacariah,
Waiting to fall on you when you look.

Your shoulders cannot take the strain,
Your head cannot hold the thoughts, that
Your eyes can see and ears can hear,
Your dying Zacariah, dying very slowly!

Jump! Zacariah now!
Watch and see the glass shatter,
The metal snap and the shadow disappear,
Jump! Jump now!

N. Mate

and then, then there was drowning.
They seemed to enjoy that
even more than the modern
electricity.

When I fainted
they stopped
and then,
after a decent interval,
began again.

This time
I was hung from a beam
by my ankles
and fire applied
to my naked skin.

In every district
in every town,
in every village,
there were such houses.
Not one or two but dozens,
and even,
at one time,
a school.

A school in the town of Constantine
where new recruits
learnt the techniques
of torture.

DJC
26.3.87

Freedom of expression

Is it possible to judge the writer and in the course of doing so make a fundamental judgement on the reader. What makes it right that one person can make a judgement on what they feel you want to read and fundamentally what they want you to read. Who are you and who are they, that both combined create a break in the communication link between writer and reader. A link

that is vital in our understanding of our own world and the world that surrounds our every emotion, fear and loathing. Are we just puppets in a world where we continue to allow others to pull our strings. What are we doing about it?

Who are you to tell me what to write, how to write, why to write and when to write. Who are you? Who are you to criticize that which you cannot understand? You cannot understand the writing until you understand the writer, until you delve into their mind, like a blind person searching for sight.

You can criticize my views but you cannot make me change them, because who are you to talk on views when I can see that you are clearly blind. Who are you?

How do you know what's right and what's wrong? How do you know that what you think is correct and everybody else is misguided? You are but

another mind in an endless entity of minds which make up our intelligence. You are but a small chemical in a giant thinking organism with knowledge and wisdom far greater than any single person can translate. You are never right and never will be, even though you may get close to the answer you can never find the exact answer. There is always something that somebody else can see.

You will not understand until you open your mind to a world that must be experienced in words. But you cannot open your mind with prejudice or it collapses shut, leaving you in a black cave where there is no white or even grey, just the blackness of a closed mind.

The writer doesn't know you, just as you do not know the writer. The writer can criticize the way we live, think, eat, play, sleep and fuck, but you cannot criticize the writer for being critical. That's what writers do.

The writer writes because they feel something is worthwhile writing about. The critic criticizes to give a greater understanding to the purpose of the writing. The critic is not there to judge, merely to give an extension to the writer. It is the censor who judges what we write, but who are they to judge when they had all the faults and misinterpretations of the critic. J.K

wreckers yard

Time rusts slowly at the wreckers,
Chariots of former glory are
stacked in skeletal rows.
Anaemic weeds struggle to grow.
In oil soaked soil, managing instead
To approximate dried flower
Arrangements amidst twisted car
Bodies and deflated tyres. [

Fenced in like cattle; a dying herd,
The cars are watched over by the
Wreckers dog, ever vigilant for
Any cars that break through the
Fence, rustled by eager youths.

Pot bellied sad men grunt over
Tight bolts and disembowled
Dashboards, swearing, and leaving
Skin on jagged contorted metal.

Boxes of greasy cogs and springs
Compete for space in a bleak dim
Workshop, watched by naked women
Smiling at nothing.
Mirth and decay collide at the
End of the day as sweaty greasy
Hands clutch desperately to cans
Of beer and the
Dog receives a kick.

Raphael Chapman

Elizabeth Marie

The silence was as deafening as
The lines around her eyes,
The hardness of her face told
The story without moving her lips.

Long nights with men who paid,
Hurt less than years with men
Paying with their fists;
Those hard men who hate their
Mother in every woman.

Waiting in the dark to cure another
Mans disease, she fights her
Memory thinking of the baby
She held for 5 minutes and
Then signed the papers.

The trick arrives and we are
Both relieved, saved from
Thoughts of youth, when summer
Nights were free.

Raphael Chapman

POETRY

senseless

Close one eye,
Squeeze your hand around a vein, Tight!
See what you can see,
Feel what you can feel.

You see half of what's there,
But you can't tell how far away it is,
You can feel what's there,
But not its true nature.

Half way between day and night,
Between black and white,
There's nothing but void,
Void and no sense at all.

There is no lifetime in heaven and hell,
There is no void in time called love,
There is no desire to want another,
There is only you, and you're very alone.

N. Mate



astringency

Sometimes I would turn up precisely on
time to record my readings for public
radio, sometimes I would play truant,
Today I will have a bad conscience,
because I wilfully absented myself: I
had a block about Byron. What I need
today is contact with *astringency* —
with the intellect which reigns when late
feelings have failed or grown-tired, with
the detachment which comes when late
adolescence and early manhood have
waned. I have been listening to
Stravinsky's music on my stereo — it
seems to hold something of the intellect
which I crave today.

For my trancy from my duty has the
potential to bring unmanageable feelings
in its wake. Many cigarettes control and
pare down these feelings: the sculptured
regularity of rhyme soothes the tension.
Thank God it is late autumn, not early
spring! The trees are becoming
astringent skeletons, the air holds a hint
of the coming winter. The universe's
processes echo my mood.

Robert McArthur
1986

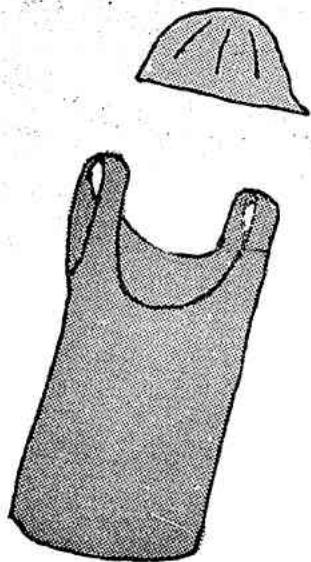
Frank

The singing in the chains calls
For Frank,
But Frank's not there.
His crane strangely still his
Grapple idle.

No more smoko for Frank
No more knock off laugh and beer,
No more pearls of common wisdom,
Cigarettes, and greasy hands upon
The wheel.

Frank died today, his shadow
Ceased to be,
And with his leaving left the
Chains to sing alone.

Raphael Chapman



WORIC

potion

Waiting slyly at a corner,
With a potion in your hand,
A magic draught bringing mermaids
Onto rocky, tortured land —

I would pass you like a shadow
Flitting through our summer crops,
To a land where magic potions
Are left to lunatics and fops:

But my weakness, like a cavern,
Would enfold a mermaid's flesh —
Eyes and hair alluring richly,
Body gripped in scaly mesh —

And so I drink, and so is emptied
The noontide sunlight of its blood,
The day tends downward to the evening,
My heart tends downward on the flood —

Downward to a lonely ocean —
Or is it real? — Or is it fraud? —
And is it really lonely, or
Are untold riches packed and stored

In the sea-wind's laden promise,
Scattering dreams on wharves and hulls,
And offering some mermaid's figure
To the eyes of men and gulls?

Mermaids, potion, dissipate,
Leaving only white despair,
Like the poet's untouched paper —
Void memory of golden hair!

Robert McArthur
27.3.87



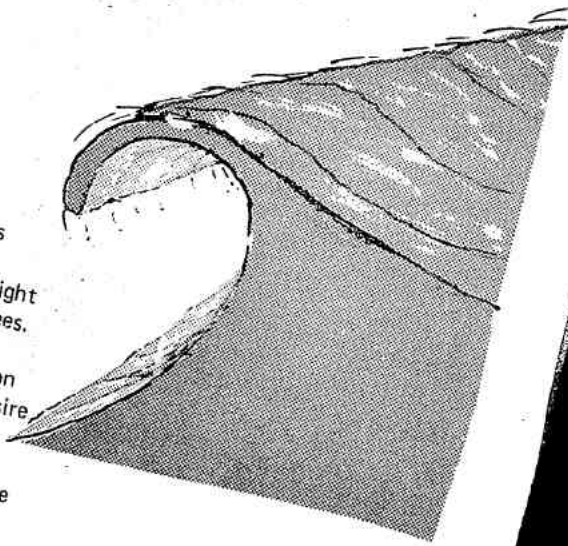
waves

It was the quality of summer
when the sharp, pointalist images
of light melted into soft,
impressionistic dreams. Days of light
and shadow under the greening trees.
Grass underfoot still awaiting the
ride on mower. A summer of tension
taught between expectation and desire
filled out with dreaming.

The ripening fruit,
Of my own choosing. I wonder at the
necessity of waiting beneath a tree
for a forbidden apple to fall, and at
its bitterness. Reproach for time
and place out of time and place.
A giving received, part measured against
uncertainty or requirement born
of compassion.

To have reached that windy beach
and know the aloneness underneath the moon,
Walking unimpeded to the shore line
marked with darkness of wet sand
and the crinoline lace of foam.
For the dancer shine those silver stars
whose freedom must be wrested from
the soul. Naked form transposed in
grief, hollowed. Crowned in peace by
purpose transcending movement.
Loneliness has chilled the flesh but
the mind remains unfrozen. A continuation
of a long established pattern with
subtles providing a third dimension.
Footprints in a ministry of silence,
a synapse for the heart to speak of
images. The memory is an unsafe place
for love. Time courts its own shadow
in a velvet darkness. All has been
given else taken away and waves break
over each departing. It will dawn
this morning on a beach of sand,
me, the moon and the sea.

Julia Clarke



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I FOUGHT THE BATTLE OF BALLARAT—& LOST

In March, Robert Boardman, a missionary who spent close to thirty years in Japan, told a young group of ANU Christians how he became a Christian in the smallest of towns — Ballarat.

In May 1943, I boarded ship in San Diego, California as part of a contingent of two battalions of newly trained US Marines. As we went up the gangway, Red Cross ladies handed each of us small ditty bags. Part of the contents of that little insignificant bag would later change the course of my entire life and prepare me for combat and the day a bullet would pierce my neck bringing me to the threshold of death.

We were designated replacements for an as yet unknown outfit somewhere in the South Pacific. Our destination also was a mystery. The great majority of the nearly three thousand Marines that went aboard the USS Rochambeau were teenagers. Like typical young men we were filled with enthusiasm and anticipation at the ominous adventures that awaited.

For 28 days the Rochambeau ponderously zigzagged across the Pacific heading for Melbourne, Australia. Most of us had never been outside the US. We were from every walk of life, but mostly fresh out of small-town high schools. Young men make the best combat troops because they are filled with enthusiasm, a sense of adventure and don't ask too many deep questions — especially about death and dying, unless it is just before a battle.

We were never so glad to feel earth as when we disembarked in Melbourne. I suppose we had learned a little about Australia in a geography class at school, but we were all green with a capital G! From Melbourne we were rapidly deployed as replacements to various contingents of the famed First Marine Division, who had stopped and defeated the Japanese in the battle of Guadalcanal. About one hundred of us were herded aboard a train at Spencer Street Station and headed for what turned out to be the town of Ballarat, about 60 miles northwest of Melbourne.

When we stepped off the train in Ballarat we were sure this was Siberia!

Australia at that time had been in the war since 1939. Most of her able-bodied men were either in North Africa, New Guinea or POW camps. By the end of World War II over 27,000 had died in combat. In and around Ballarat we encountered the Home Guard, made up of older men, a few Diggers on leave and members of the Royal Australian Air Force. These latter wore uniforms and were called "Blue Orchids" by the Diggers and the Marines. For some reason this did not set too well.

Another of our recreational past-times was to visit various pubs. "D.I." Bahde from Nebraska, a close buddy and I ventured out one afternoon for a pub crawl. As we became filled with spirits our boldness grew. We decided to test our combat skills on some Aussies. The Battle of Ballarat was about to begin.

Bahde and I passed several Diggers standing in front of a butcher shop. We imagined that they had made some smart remarks about us and turned to challenge them. For a few moments we stood face to face issuing our summons to repeat their slurs. I had joined the Marines to see action and decided that action was needed, rather than verbal sparring. I swung at the nearest Aussie, missed and heard the crash of exploding glass.

In one wild swing my combat on the streets of Ballarat came to a swift close. I had severed the tendons in my right wrist.

From out of nowhere several Australian Bobbies (policemen) stopped Bahde and me and asked for identification. In this encounter I tried to hide my wounded hand behind my back, but it was of no use. Soon Marine Military Police arrived. I was quickly taken in their vehicle to Australian Military hospital No.88. The doctors operated immediately tying the tendons together before they drew up into my arm leaving my hand useless. My wrist and arm were immobilized in a plaster cast.

The next morning when I came out of the effects of the anaesthetic, I felt the lowest and most miserable of my entire life. All around me on the hospital ward were wounded and sick Diggers from New Guinea. They deserved the hospital space and medical attention, but here I was a greenhorn young Marine taking up underserved space because of a fight with one of their mates. I was sure that these men would ostracize me and make life miserable because of my foolish deed.

Contrary to my fears they accepted and helped me in many ways. At that time I experienced a form of the Diggers' famous "mateship". I couldn't use my right hand and so they tied my shoelaces and cut my meat at meal times. They accepted me as a "cobber" and their kindnesses made me feel all the more miserable. My misery brought a feeling of deep guilt over my wrong doings. This, in turn, led to a spiritual search for God.

What had happened to me in the fight on the streets of Ballarat was, I now realized through my foggy mind, the climax of a long series of sowings and reapings. R.A. Torrey put it well when he said:

I was now being brought to bay by my wrongdoing. I could no longer go ahead in life without somehow, somehow dealing with the problems of sin, sowing and reaping. Little did I know that buried in a section of the Bible, God clearly teaches the principle that I now realized was true in my young life:

Do not be deceived; GOD is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap:

Galatians 6.7(RSV)

In the Australian hospital I began to learn something else along with the principle of sowing and reaping. This

concurrent lesson was that the small incidents in life are very important. That afternoon just before Bahde and I took on the Diggers in our foolish and ill-fated fight, the heel came off my shoe. We spent a long, weary time trudging around town trying to find a shoe repairman to put it back on. Finally we found one and while he kindly repaired the shoe free, I stole small items from the front of his shop stuffing them into my pockets.

Now on the hospital ward, that seemingly small incident came back to haunt me. I was really the heel that needed repairing. From my hospital bed I looked at my hanging uniform with bulging pockets that held the stolen goods. My miseries increased. It is often not the obvious grand events of life that beckon our spirits attention. Rather the so-called insignificant happenings can become a prominent voice calling for attention from the spiritual vacuum of our lives.

Surrounded by wounded Diggers I began my spiritual journey. Although I knew no Scripture, I had arrived at what the Bible calls the Crossroads of Life:

Does not wisdom call and discernment utter her voice? On the top of the heights along the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates, in front of the town from the portals entrance she cries out; "To you O men, I call; my voice is directed to the sons of men. O simple ones, learn to get insight. O fools, make your mind understand."

— Proverbs 8.1-5(Berk)

I was the young fool, but daily in the hospital library I read various books, trying to make my clouded mind understand. One book entitled, "Beltane the Smith" by Jeffrey Farnol gave me the idea of beginning to pray. I only knew two prayers — the Lord's Prayer and the Child's Prayer. Many times a day I prayed these fervently. Another book whose title I have long forgotten, told of the difference that came into the life of a mean, elderly man when he began to read the New Testament. He was deeply influenced by a young couple who were believers in the New Testament message. This was the voice of wisdom calling me.

On one of D.I. Bahde's visits to the hospital, I asked him to bring me a small Gideon New Testament from my gear in the tent back in Memorial Park. It had been in the ditty bag given us as we boarded the Rochambeau. Daily and unashamedly on the hospital ward, I read that New Testament. Before this time the New Testament was completely available to read, but because of my indulgences of the flesh and the spiritual darkness of my mind, I had never opened the book. I was a typical young American Marine. On the metal dog-tags around my neck were stamped my name, serial number, blood type and the letter "P". This stood for Protestant, but was there simply because I wasn't a Catholic. It virtually meant

nothing as I claimed to be an aesthet.

I don't know what the Diggers around me thought as they saw me daily reading the New Testament. It didn't really matter as this was a life and death issue. In a few weeks our outfit would depart from Ballarat and Melbourne for unknown islands and ominous battles in the South Pacific. Deep down in my heart, I had the premonition that I would be and deserved to be one of the future Marine casualties. This presentiment came true for later I was wounded twice.

Someone has well said, "Man's extremity is GOD's opportunity." The battle of Ballarat was the climax of many extremities in my young life. I was now at the crossroads of life. The day I was discharged from the hospital I gave an emotional farewell to the Aussies who had taken me in and accepted me despite my antagonistic actions towards their mates on the streets. I will never forget their kindnesses, nor that of the townspeople who reached out to us with their hospitality and their patience.

A few weeks later we embarked for the South Pacific from Melbourne. While waiting in Melbourne to board ship we were camped in the Cricket Grounds for about two weeks. Daily I read the New Testament and began to experience that "this is the book that understands me." I was a hungry searcher for God, even though my external life hadn't changed. I continued excessive drinking, swearing and leading a rough outward life. But my heart was being prepared through the reading of eternal, life-changing truths. No doubt, God was searching for a real Christian Marine to come along and show me the way to know Christ, but he couldn't find anyone.

The name heard daily more frequently than any other name in any Marine unit is that of Jesus Christ — taken in vain. In the pages of that little Gideon

New Testament, I discovered that Jesus Christ loved me as a person to the extent that he died for all my wrong doing on Calvary's Cross thereby forgiving me. Then I learned that three days later he was raised from the dead to give me hope beyond the grave. Two years later when the bullet with my name on it would slam through my neck in my third combat experience on the island of Okinawa, the hope of Christ's death and resurrection would sustain me in the face of death.

On Goodenough Island near New Guinea, three months from the time I first began to read the New Testament, I received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The name of my home town, Salem, means peace. But living there I had no inner peace. It was necessary for me to travel thousands of miles from Salem to a small Australian town to begin to discover the heart-peace that transcends all human understanding. I lost the Battle of Ballarat, but won a spiritual war. God's undeserved favour and love enabled me to make the right turn when I came to the crossroads of my young life.

THE COLLESS-LIM LITERARY
REVIEW No. 2*(Laissez-Faire*, ANU Conservative Forum, 2:1 March 1987, 25 pages)

Have you ever wondered what members of the Conservative Forum do when they are now worshipping effigies of Ronald Reagan? It used to worry me that these clean-cut young men and women appeared (at least to outsiders like myself) to lead a rather pedestrian existence — with of course the exception of the orgiastic ceremonies in honour of Mr Reagan, at which, I am told, the participants actually practise the ancient Persian rite of *proskynesis* before the likeness of the President of the United States.

My mind was put at ease a few days ago when Stephen Kirchner, one of the earnest young men of the Conservative Forum, came to my room to present me with my very own copy of *Laissez-Faire* vol. 2 no. 1, subtitled *The Journal of the ANU Conservative Forum*. I was flattered that Stephen Kirchner thought I was worthy of a free copy on the sole basis that Gamiini Colless and I had written a review of vol. 1 no. 1 of the same journal in this column in an edition of last year's WORONI. No kidding. After all, I am only a little fellow in the scheme of things and always find myself overawed by the presence of people who chart the course of humanity like Stephen.

My very first impression of the journal was one of horror. I was horrified to find that this journal actually has a smoothness and professionalism about it which is seldom present in student publications. A couple of articles in it had the sort of rigorousness (assuming you could actually call any piece of conservative writing rigorous) about them which one would normally associate with a professionally published journal such as *The Bulletin* or perhaps a polemic academic work expounding New Right ideology. In fact, a couple of articles were extracted from the said sources: There was an article by David Barnett extracted from *The Bulletin* (which is read by most conservatives anyway, so one wonders why the editors of *Laissez-Faires* bothered) and an extract from Irving Kristol's book *Two Cheers for Capitalism* (New York, 1978).

An article which caught my eye was entitled "The Ways of Japan" by Glenn Phillips, in which Mr Phillips attempts to present an argument for conservatism through a slightly mystical examination of an aspect of Japanese thought. The veracity of the exposition of the Japanese concept of *Do* is something I have no knowledge of, but I must disagree with Mr Phillips in his use of *Do* to applaud the workings of our system of common law. To cite Mr Phillips:

"... through his (*sic* there are women judges too — even on the High Court bench, you sexist old goat) understanding and commitment to the culture and traditions of the law, the judge will usually reach a conclusion which retains the spirit of the common law and preserve that of 'eternal worth'." (p.7)

With great respect to Mr Phillips' eloquence, I beg to differ. The passage cited is a load of mystical poppycock. Judges are political animals like anyone else. Right-wing judges get warm little right-wing feelings in their tummies when hearing cases and thereby hand down right-wing decisions.

Laissez-Faire also provided me with an insight into the workings of the conservative mind. There is a facsimile of an advertisement from the *Washington Times* thanking President Reagan for standing firm on SDI in Iceland in 1986 (p.12) and a similar one on the back cover of the journal with a picture of the ubiquitous Mr Reagan embracing Mrs Thatcher. At first I thought this was an invitation to leaders of nations to engage in adultery, but then I noticed the caption, urging one to join the Conservative Students' Federation. Why there should be this slavish worship of Mr Reagan and Mrs Thatcher is beyond me. Such, I suppose, is the wonder of the conservative mind. Equally, I find repulsive certain attitudes propounded in this journal, such as in John Newland's assertion that "a lot of drongos should not be made to vote, nor do they deserve to" (p.15); in an unnecessary and offensive pictorial entitled "A Short History of Communist China" (which concentrates on the Mao years, totally ignoring later developments); and in a page called "Leftists Unlimited" in which, among other things, 'socialist feminist' is equated with 'lesbian'. They betray, I think, a certain class arrogance and a lack of compassion for and understanding of the complexities of many of the matters simply dismissed by the New Right. There is no virtue in simplistic solutions in this complex world.

But I digress. I actually meant to tell you what ANU Conservatives do after dark when I got sidetracked into reviewing *Laissez-Faire*. On page three of the journal, under the heading "Social Activities" is a proposal to "repeat the success of the *Real* (their italics, not mine) Cocktail Party" and to have a "Royal Wedding Reception", which involves going to someone's place to watch his Royal Family videos and "generally have a good time."

So now you know.

W.T. Lim

A Funny Dirty Little War
Osvaldo Soriano, 108pp, by subscription
from Readers International

"You got infiltrators," said the Police Inspector to the Council Leader of a small, quiet village near Buenos Aires. Communist Infiltrators. From this farcical beginning evolves a political confrontation based on obscure, indeed imperceptible, differences between Peronist supporters which quickly moves from the comic to the grotesque and finally to the tragic.

Osvaldo Soriano combines furious, yet pointless, action with crisp and sparkling dialogue, black humour and an unemotional and detached style to produce a masterpiece in a completely different line from those other great Latin American writers.

In a day the chief characters of the village: the Party Secretary who owes the Council Leader money, perhaps the cause of all the trouble; the Police

Inspector who needs a promotion so he can retire; and the Council Leader who sees himself as a young Peron defending the Town Hall from an insurrection; destroy themselves and all that they are struggling to build in the honest conviction that they are Peronists and that their opponents are not. As Mateo, the elderly alleged Communist infiltrator says, 'I've always been a Peronist ... I never got mixed up in politics.'

The novel is a frightening parable on Peronism and on the ideology of violence, and yet in the end what can one feel for all these small people except pity. They are all morally wretched, yet they are also tragically and forever trapped in the emptiness of their own ambition and fanaticism, and in the end ... in the end it's all shit. The battle takes only a day to consume them all, a day, in all of their minds, for Peron.

Readers International, the publishers of *A Funny Dirty Little War*, is a non-profit, world-wide and independent alliance of translators, writers and editors which publishes translations of contemporary literature of quality from the Middle East, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Eastern Europe, featuring especially works that have suffered political censorship in their country of origin.

Recent releases include: Dr Njabulo Ndebele's *Fools and Other Stories*, a powerful collection of short stories exploring how people can survive under the harsh conditions of apartheid; *The Secret Life of Saeed*, the ill-fated *Pesoptomist*, Emile Habiby's *Candide* like novel of the absurdities and tragedy of the Palestinian experience; and Antonio Skarmeta's *I Dreamt the Snow Was Burning*, described by *Village Voice* as "the most accomplished piece of literature to come out of Chile since Pinochet took power."

Subscription to *Readers International* guarantees a good read every two months and, more importantly, gives to powerful writers from all over the world a voice in English. Information can be obtained from The Editorial Branch, *Readers International*, 8 Strathway Gardens, London NW3 4NY, Great Britain.

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Thursday 23 April 8.00 pm
The Servant (Britain) 1963
Dir: Joseph Losey 115 mins
with Dirk Bogarde + James Fox + Wendy Craig

PLUS...
The Blue Lamp (Britain) 1950
Dir: Basil Dearden 84 mins
with Dirk Bogarde + Jack Warner

Sunday 3 May 1.30 pm
Room with a View

Tuesday 21 April 8.00 pm
East of Eden (USA) 1955
Dir: Elia Kazan 115 mins
with James Dean + Raymond Massey

A ROOM
WITH A VIEW

EAST
OF
EDEN

THE HEAVLY

Tuesday 5 May 8.00 pm
The Fly (USA) 1986 (R)
Dir: David Cronenberg
with Jeff Goldblum + Geena Davis

Thursday 7 May 8.00 pm
Birdy (USA) 1984 (M)
Dir: Alan Parker 120 mins
with music by Peter Gabriel

BIRDY

Ferruccio Busoni

(1866 - 1924)

Feeling is a moral point of honour, as honesty is, a quality no one will be denied and which belongs to the currency both of life and of art. But whilst in life want of feeling may be forgiven in favour of a more splendid quality — as, for example, bravery and impartial justice — in art it is regarded as the highest moral quality.

But in music feeling requires two companions — taste and style. Now in life one finds taste as rarely as deep warm feeling and as for style it belongs to the domain of art. What is left over is an appearance of feeling which has to be expressed with tearfulness and turgidity. And before everything it must be made obvious! It must be underlined so that no one can miss seeing and hearing it. It must be thrown, greatly magnified, on the screen in the sight of the public, so that it dances obtrusively and indistinctly before the eyes.

For in life, too, expressions of feeling are shown more frequently in looks and words: rarer and more genuine is that feeling which acts without speaking and most valuable of all is the feeling which hides itself.

What is commonly understood by "feeling" is: *tenderness, pathos and extravagance of expression.*

Yet how much more there is still to be included in the wonder-flower of feeling? Restraint; forbearance, sacrifice, strength, activity, patience, generosity, joyousness and that all-controlling intelligence from which properly speaking feeling springs.

It is the same in art, which reflects the feeling of life, and it is still more pronounced in music which repeats the feelings of life, to which as I have emphasized taste must be added and style — style which distinguishes Art from Life.

What the amateur or mediocre artist is concerned about is only feeling on a small scale, in detail, for short stretches.

Feeling on a large scale is mistaken by the amateur, the semi-artist and the public (and unfortunately the critic also) for want of feeling; because they have not the power to hear large stretches as parts of a still larger whole. Therefore feeling is also economy.

Accordingly, I discern three aspects in feeling: feeling as taste, as style and as economy. Each a whole and each the third of a whole. In them and over them rules a subjective trinity. Temperament, intelligence and the sense of equipoise.

These six carry on a round dance of such subtlety in the arrangement of the coupling and intertwining of figures, of supporting and being supported, of advancing and curtseying, of movement and repose, that a dance more full of art is inconceivable.

"The creator really only strives for perfection. And as he/she brings this into harmony with his/her individuality a new law arises unintentionally."



"I endeavour to draw upon the Infinite which surrounds mankind (peoplekind) and to give it back in created form."

Routine transforms the Temple into a factory.

It destroys all creativeness. For creation means bringing form out of the Void.

But routine is the factory for mass production. It is "poetry made to order". It prevails because it suits the generality. It flourishes in the theatre, in the orchestra, with virtuosi and in the "Schools of Art", that is to say those institutions which are arranged excellently for the maintenance of the teachers. One is tempted to cry out "Avoid Routine!" Let every beginning be as if none had been before! Know nothing but rather think and feel and learn through being able to do!

Nothing is more dangerous for the understanding of the artistic vision than the "slogan". It sounds arresting, it saves breath and thought, and cuts off any discussion.

The "new" is included in the idea of "Creation" — for in that way creation is distinguished from imitation.

One follows a great example most faithfully: if one does not follow it, for it was through turning away from its predecessor that the example became great.

"... an artist — not those who merely practise an art."

It was in this sense that Arnold Schoenberg spoke when, to a small community of people, he showed what little help can be got from the theory of composition, for it only teaches what is known. Creativeness, however, wants the unknown.

But the unknown is existent. The only question is, how to produce it. There is no new and old. Only known and unknown. Of these, it seems to me that the known still forms by far the smaller part.

It is the distinguishing characteristic of the artist — I mean of the artist — and not those who merely practise an art — that he or she sets himself or herself new problems continually and looks for his or her satisfaction in the solution of them. The dilettante, on the other hand, naturally takes advantage of every external alleviation of difficulties, whilst the artist turns from them as from a task which has been accomplished.

In this I believe I can see what the dilettante and the artist have in common and in what way they differ. Both are busy with difficulties but the dilettante hammers at those which the artist has already overcome and the artist constantly creates and conquers new ones for her/himself.

To those artists who strive after those imperfections, the alleviation of purely technical difficulties can be helpful in furtherance of these efforts.

If it is true that "the power of expression is increased when a singer has to take trouble to sing a high note", how does the matter stand in the case where the greatest difficulties are to be found in artistically subordinate places? These will then be brought into undue prominence in consequence of the effort.

The more means the artist has at his/her disposal the more use will be found for them.

Art, especially music, demands freedom of movement. Up to now it has been obliged to devote most of its strength to overcoming material hindrances. What is apparently the greatest technical simplification is only equal to a person's stride in immense space.

We commend the makers of the strides and the liberators however slight their power may be.

For where is the apparatus than people could invent and set in motion which would allow harmony's million tongues to sound? Where is and where will ever be the technique which will allow the thousand registers of the world-organ to play?

And here stands an "inquirer" in front of a pianoforte keyboard where line diverges slightly from what is customary and fears that art will be ruined by it.

What a fragile art he or she must have in mind!

Have thunderstorms vanished from the world because Franklin discovered the lightning conductor?

In, to me, every simplification of difficulty seems to mean that a new difficulty takes the place of the one already surmounted. If we agree with the "inquirer" that "the lack of mechanical resistance makes playing more uninteresting" we only find the artist placed before a new difficulty. But of what interest it can be to the inquirer whilst listening, to see a player continually battling to overcome these resistances is unfathomable. And still more, in what way this struggle can contribute towards the preservation and salvation of art.

— from "The Essence of Music"
by F. Busoni
1957

Betty Blue

Director: Jean-Jacques Beineix
Starring: Jean-Hugues Anglade, Beatrice Dalle, Gearard Darmon.

Jean-Jacques Beineix has described his new third film as "a modern love story — as if love was the only adventure left in the world"; from a not uncommon premise, he has directed (as well as wrote and produced) this tragicomic masterpiece of *l'amour fou*. *Betty Blue* must surely be one of the most extraordinary, exquisite films in recent years and like the classic *Les Enfants du Paradis*, it is a passionately poetic reflection of the age we live in.

His debut, the successful *Diva* played stylish games with an audience captivated by its fluidity of motion and colourful spectacle; *Moon in the Gutter* was the subsequent nadir of his career in the space of two films. *Betty Blue* changes all that, with elements of that distinctive style retained, this new film explores through mystery and metaphor its shimmering images of place and human circumstance, of a love story so real it hurts when we laugh in darkness. Beineix has perfectly crafted a setting in which the strong performances of Jean-Hugues Anglade as Zorg (he was last seen skating down *Subway*) and the stunning Beatrice Dalle as Betty (a distinguished debut) live their fatal love, initially with wild abandon to schizophrenic momentum, exposing the tragic stillness of its constant undercurrent, stalked by violence left disturbingly unresolved; "The forecast was storm" we are told in the beginning. Beineix's seductive vision is well-served by the scenery we pass through, from a burnished harsh-orange abandoned coastal resort; grey suburban Paris, to a lush yet uninviting rural town where destiny awaits the couple; subsequent characters with farcical peculiarities add amusing facets to this visual parable of obsession in love.

Betty Blue is erotic and tragic, passionate and flippant, neurotic and funny, all at once; for a film like this, "brilliant" seems an understatement.

Kean Wong

Cop — Out

COP-OUT, Interact Theatre's second lunchtime play for 1987, was a probing and unusual presentation. The play began — or so the audience thought — as a murder mystery; upon the revelation that the deceased was feline, the play revealed itself as anything but a piece of conventional theatre.

The two actors — Michael Fry and Kim Robinson — each played a number of characters. Fry appeared as a policeman and as Arrow, a private investigator; Robinson adopted a variety of female roles. The two handled a range of personalities and accents (from pure Bronx to Eastern European) admirably, Robinson in particular as she was transformed from a starry-eyed young demonstrator, to a frightening flower-selling crone, to a black-clad thesis-writing sophisticate, to Marilyn Monroe.

The play's message? Complex and ambiguous, but I saw the play as dealing with the ironic "cop-out" of the individual opting to succumb to the mindless authority of the state. This cop-out was both on the part of those within the structure of that authority (Fry as the law enforcers) and of those it controlled (as displayed by Robinson's characters). The play strongly associated the brutal side of authority with maleness (from the acts of policemen to abortionists) and the exploited American masses were associated with femaleness. The sado-masochistic theme dominated as every female character became the victim of violence perpetrated by male authority, violence often resulting in sexual attraction (a prime example being Marilyn Monroe and every US president since George Washington).

I was intrigued by Interact's production of COP-OUT, a production which literally grasped the audience by the throat and held on for an entire hour. The actors coped well with fast-moving action (as the audience struggled to cope with fast-moving ideas!) and conveyed a disturbing image of an extreme social order based on a dogma of violence, perpetuated by the "cop-out" of the individual.

Natasha Cica

MAY DAY
end of term workers frolic

When Friday May 1st 2pm →
Where Jaw School jaws
what Black Dogs, Juggle FREE;
band, food, beer, wine,
RALLY CITY MILL afterwards 4:30
& CANBERRA FIGHTBACK Cabaret

Equus

Theatre Nepean is touring its production of Peter Shaffer's highly acclaimed play 'Equus' to Canberra from 28 April to 2 May 1987.

A psychological drama, Malcolm Keith directs this production through suggestion, playing on the imagination of the audience. The play focuses upon the character of Alan Strong, an adolescent boy, and his relationship with his psychiatrist Martin Dysart: "As with any great tragedy the play follows a character, Alan Strong, from the pinnacle of ecstasy to his ultimate downfall . . . the psychiatrist also questions the identity of Gods in modern society and the individual's concept of reality."

Theatre Nepean is comprised of the graduating year of students from Nepean's CAE's Bachelor of Performing Arts Course. The high standard of professionalism within the group has been recognised at the public level.

'Equus' opens at the Canberra Playhouse on Wednesday 29 April at 8.15pm and continues until Saturday 2 May 1987. It previews as a production well worth seeing:

"The Normal is the good smile in a child's eye . . . it is also the dead stare in a million adults. It both sustains and kills — like a God."

Nicola Phillips

(37.2° le matin)



BETTY BLUE
(37.2° IN THE MORNING)

Revisited by Twentieth Century Fox

A Zed and Two Noughts Director: Peter Greenaway

In Haifa there is a Biblical zoo. Walking through it and looking at the lions and lambs, the snakes and sparrows and the camels, donkeys and birds of the air etc. I wondered whimsically about the mind of the person who established this den of theological zoology. In *A Zed and 2 Noughts* there is a man who would stock a zoo with mythological animals. Sitting through *A Zed and 2 Noughts* you will wonder (but less whimsically than with a horrified fascination) about the mind of Peter Greenaway, who wrote and directed this bizarre investigation of life, death, symmetry, suicide, chance, art, identity, loss, evolution and decay set in a European zoo.

A cast of strange characters — ex-Siamese twins who have just lost wives in a car accident, an amputee with a cloud of red hair, decolletage and a throaty, decadent voice (Andrea Ferreol) and a whore called Venus de Milo who only wears black and white — asks questions such as "Do you think black and white stripes are useful?" "How much of the body can you lose and still recognise yourself?" "Is a zebra a white horse with black stripes or a black horse with white stripes?" and "How can you measure decay?"

The film is composed of mostly interior scenes — carefully arranged tableaux, replicas of Vermeer paintings (Greenaway thinks that Vermeer had a prophetically cinematic eye, apparent in his precise capturing of the moment and in his studies of drama revealed by light) and surrealistic juxtapositions.

Peter Greenaway also directed that fine, detached intellectual exercise, *The Draughtsman's Contract*. Greenaway believes that "Cinema is far too rich and capable a medium to be merely left to the storytellers". I think that most people get more from narrative cinema than from other kinds and I have seen many non-narrative films directed with better results than *A Zed and 2 Noughts*. For example Chris Marker, in *Sans Soleil* asks even more provocative questions and uses equally bizarre juxtapositions of inmates and also bombards our senses with a cacophany of fascinating information, but without Greenaway's morbid, self-indulgent repetition, he covers a lot more philosophical territory and also manages to engage our feelings. *Sans Soleil* touches the heart as well as teasing the mind and it is more stimulating and rewarding than *A Zed and 2 Noughts*.

At 115 mins. *A Zed and 2 Noughts* is a little too long. The film lost pace three quarters of the way through. I found the film a cold accumulation of data, an attempted analysis with no conclusion. One tires of endless sensational, surrealistic juxtapositions splashed on the screen.

British critics, Gavin Miller, thinks that Greenaway is "a talented painter with a penchant for crossword puzzles" *A Zed and 2 Noughts* screens at Electric.

Shadows from 13-25 April. To help you make up your mind whether to see this bizarre exercise, I can't resist concluding with Gavin Miller's opinion that the film is "a type of not so much free-range as battery surrealism, in which as many little ideas as possible are crammed together in an impossible space, force-fed into artificial growth and strangled before they see the light of day".

Penelope Hanley



Wake Up, Australia! Thursday, March 19

"Who is Billy Bragg anyway?" will be a question asked by the average ANU student. Indeed my first introduction to Bragg's music was at his recent concert at the Canberra Workers' Club — and what an introduction!

Bragg is, quite simply, a man with a message. He writes about love and relationships, his treatment lacking the superficiality to ensure him Top 40 status. But Bragg also sings of other universals — of oppression, of poverty, of inequality, of injustice. Contrary to popular opinion, these terms are not merely the jargonese of "leftie scumbags", of a "radical and hysterical minority". They are about people as people rather than statistics — for after all, which suburb, nationality, religion, gender or college one is born into is just an accident of birth.

Bragg spent a great deal of time in between his songs further explaining his political philosophy. With a keen awareness of the Australian political situation, this articulate Englishman commented on the similarities between

Thatcherism and Johism, on Aboriginal landrights, on trade unions (a dominant theme in his work), on media monopolies, on peace issues.

But as Bragg himself pointed out, he alone cannot "turn the world upside down". His down-to-earth and personable musical style has the power to convey ideas, but change is an individual's responsibility — apathy being one of the greatest barriers to a more humane society. As the American author Mark Twain wrote much earlier:

"It is by the goodness of God that in our country we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practise either of them"

In short, Billy Bragg's Canberra appearance was as much a political as a musical experience, a fascinating insight into the man behind the music.

Natasha Cica

records: **THE GREAT UNWASHED**

From the immaculate Anton Corbijn photographs of the band on the cover and the black-and-gold colour scheme, U2's fifth studio LP "The Joshua Tree" (Island/Festival) serves one with the suitably correct first impression of this being a serious effort done with a precision of panache. Brian Eno and cohort Daniel Lanois continue from where they left off the previous "The Unforgettable Fire" LP, producing smooth delineated tones of what still is really a minimally instrumented outfit though a singer Bono has his harmonica highlighted as well, a reflection no doubt of their current reputed interests in America and its folkies.

Their wide expanses of sound owe much to the innovations of Tom Verlaine and his proto-punk group Television, like Television. U2 have progressively followed the linear path of shedding unnecessary sonic baggage to produce a clean, ethereal but popular rock music that have made them the American stadium sellouts that Television never were. All the more unusual when current Pop has developed serially appropriating its influences from the last few decades to present a Present. U2's sense of purpose and plain worthiness, through Bono's various concerns expressed on this fine effort—ranging from human rights abuses, disappearing communities to self-doubting commitment, makes for an inspirationally austere record, majestic but humane. Bono though can tend to detract at times with his histrionics; all the same, a satisfying record.

From atmosphere to Atmosphere, **KATE CEBRANO AND HER SEPTET** (Regular/Festival) sees I'm Talking lead singer play Cool jazz with a coterie of young jazz musicians in Melbourne, and distinguishing themselves with this live LP's worth of old standards and a few other standards that should've been left for dead. If you're expecting anything close to Bebop's vivid intensity forget this collection of sweet-natured swinging excursions of "Lush Life", "The Masquerade Is Over", "My Baby Just Cares For Me" and some others. On the other hand, Kate Cebirano's phrasing and technique is hard to fault; she imbues her singing with a confidence unusually found in genre-blurring Pop. Some standout tracks are the old Material song (then sung by unknown Whitney Houston) "Memory Serves"—a strong vocal over new arrangements; "My Baby Just Cares For Me" compares favourably to Nina Simone's original while "One Note Samba" swings like it should with Russell Smith's trombone deserving special mention. "Lush Life" slips Kate up somewhat, showing up what is probably the only drawback on this otherwise superbly performed LP, her voice lacking in the emotional maturity so painfully evident in her legendary seniors like Billie Holiday (especially the live cuts of the '50s), Nina Simone, Etta James, Janis Joplin, et al., making some of the lyrics sound distinctly uncomfortable in her voice. Despite niggling flaws like these, this LP should help discredit that popular misconception of Sade, Matte Bianco & Co. as purveyors of quality jazz, where Kate and the boys are producing a more entertaining and accomplished collection that deserves to be heard and encouraged, the claustrophobic urbanity not withstanding.

CARMEL, on the other hand, is in danger of becoming an old trooper when it comes to playing her hand at invoking that image of the jazz-inflected chanteuse intimating her pain breathily, cutting through the smoky haze to her audience of a handful in a club within the limits of the Parisian Latin Quarter.

CARMEL the band and their latest Australian LP "The Falling" (Liberation/EMI) confirm their position in the Atmosphere stakes; after years of attempting to call the tune in the UK, it must be disheartening to see singles languish in the middle reaches of the charts, overtaken but not quite outclassed by Sade and the like. It is nostalgia that dominates the mood of this current collection crisply played acoustic instruments that would not be out of place on one's favourite Mecca or Blue Note-label record from the early 60s. The lyrics are bittersweet, the poignancy sparingly present as Carmel sings (or rather, stridently wails) the blues, gospel, and even upbeat soul. Nothing here particularly stands out, though the single "Sally", the Brian Eno produced "Mercy", and the swinging "Let Me Know" which does remind one favourably of Aretha Franklin's early Atlantic sides, have popular potential. Apart from a voice I've never really liked, this is a good record on most accounts, certainly better than most current releases including the more pastiche-plagued **SIMPLY RED** "Men and Women" LP.

THE STYLE COUNCIL's "The Cost of Loving" (Polygram) is their first studio LP since that fine Pop effort "Our Favourite Shop", last year's live one buying them time to play all sorts of benefits like the consciousness raising Red Wedge, and to make their debut film "Jerusalem" ostensibly about pop media and Britain AKA 51st State of the USA. Their soul connections have not gone awry (of course); the current single "It Didn't Matter" having The Valentine Bros as producers, and a most energetic and humorously pungent rap with Brit-rappers The Dynamic Three... about the need to vote out Thatcherism. Dee C. Lee and Paul Weller also reintroduce "Angel", a song off Anita Baker's first LP of some years ago, in a new duet form; hopefully, this will popularise the original because this current version sounds lame and tacky, despite the laboured vocals. It is difficult not to compare this new LP with those wonderful songs of old, granted the standards of "Boy Who Cried Wolf", "Internationalist", and "Shout To The Top" (and that's just the previous studio effort) were high, but when it happens, only a few songs from this share that favourite Council spirit, well-adapted from classic Philadelphia and Motown Soul. "Fairy Tales" gets close to the bouncy, hard-hitting pop tune we've come to expect yet it loses its anti-Tory sting when Paul and Dee start "Shalala"-ing towards the end, "Heavens Above" sounding very bright and brassy and probably the next single to go, while the title song features Mick Talbot's organ to good effect with positive-message like of old. Oddly unlisted on the sleeves but a certain

change in pace is Dee C. Lee's rendition of "A Woman's Song", a mother's lullaby to her child soulfully done.

"The Cost of Loving" is good indication of a mellower Council, less concerned in their old ways of making a point and more in love with *lurve* itself, contrary to the few songs mentioned otherwise. The pace too has slackened; perhaps this is no bad thing. Perhaps this is where old admirers get off.

And possibly get onto a great new dance-ingested compilation called "The House Sound of Chicago" (London/PolyGram), featuring seven crucial cuts of all-night underground funk abandon. "House" is the catchword for DJ initiated music, coming out of the clubs of Chicago, mixing intoxicating blends of driving pulses, scratch-mixes, sampled-sounds and effects of runaway trains, dubs pinned down with stolen basslines, as Stuart Cosgrove succinctly put it, "House is soul in a modern and technological sense, where the music turned into inspirational dance". Where a current UK singles success included here, Farley 'Jackmaster' Funk's "Love Can't Turn Around" is a mutant transformation of old Isaac Hayes' "I Can't Turn Around", still as vital but revelling in the new persona, and the recent UK hit "Jack Your Body" by Steve 'Silk' Hurley the edict by which all self-respecting all-night dancers would live to. Then there is the House anthem "Move Your Body" mixed by Marshall Jefferson to perfection on the 12-inch version also hemmed in here.

The inspiration here is lifted unadulterated, from Kraftwerk's Munich and Eurodiscio, of D Train and Washington DC. Unlike DC's GoGo (and that fab compilation of last year), House have sampled its sounds serially and selectively across sound archives, in constant celebration of club music concocted by those Chicago DJs. Jack that body till it hurts.

SINGLES BAR:

Immediate attention would have already been paid to the event of the vinyl year so far, if not here's another rave: **Prince's** new double LP and first single, "Sign Of The Times" (Paisley Park) is superb; another reason why in this age of instant-images muzak and ephemerality Prince is an event and not a passing fancy (as in Hype), where the innate skillfulness of his particular (as opposed to Peculiar) Noise is a perfect reflection of the times, constantly an interaction of Pop culture. "Sign Of The Times", the 12-inch single, is a progression musically in the tradition of "Kiss", with the now solo Prince Roger Nelson making apt comment in the lyrics on AIDS, Crack, gunned-gangs, linked issues of the urban grind; all this done over a sparse and raw funk bassline sweetened enough for a melody to slip in intermittently. As is usual with Prince, you can dance to this. Absolutely.

Another recent single release that's now been accompanied by the 12-inch is the unctuously hypnotic "Candy" (Mercury) by Cameo: without adding any more to the LP review previously, this remixed dancefloor fave is a must for all those terminally addicted to sublime funk and Larry Blackmon's ministrations.

Wally Badarou was that excited looking fellow at the keyboards in the Talking Heads publicity stung "Stop Making Sense"; apart from unfortunate credentials like these, he has alleviated some of the (many) dismal moments found on "Speaking In Tongues"—his profile boosted after a time as a session muso brought in to "improve" artists bankrupt of ideas. He has also been an important part of prime Grace Jones, written film scores ("Kiss Of the Spiderwoman"), and was born in Paris but raised in Dahomey, West Africa. His latest release is "Hi-Life" (4th & Broadway/Festival) an infectious 12-inch blend of African (of the Hi-Life school), pop, and funk music; instantly likeable and hopefully indisposable for parties anywhere.

Funny how the same can also be said, but for a shorter duration of time, for "Heartache" (PolyGram) by Pepsi & Shirlie; until Wham! and its break-up, they were the sturdy backing duo George Michael should've been thankful for. With this first single, unusually self-penned, they do well in disproving that well-run stereotype of sodden backing singers of Big Stars; frothy, irreverent, hook-plenty song that should see this stylish debut in the charts.

The ubiquitous charts have never held much fascination for the influential protopunk antics of James Newell Osterberg AKA **Iggy Pop**. Even in those blissed-out days of wine, roses and Aquarius, 1970-model Iggy was the most drugged out of them, as he smeared peanut butter and freshly butchered meat all over his glass-lacerated skin in his debut with the Stooges some time earlier in Detroit. Finding time of course, between all this, to produce punk rock of unsurpassed energy and intensity, captured in "The Idiot" and later about '71 with "Raw Power" LPs. All this before Punk was reconstructed by the multimedia McLaren's Sex Pistols. Iggy's latest single "Real Wild Child (Wild One)" (A & M/Festival) has finally made a Pop star of him, making the Top 10 in Britain and doing brisk business here, birthplace of the song's writer Johnny O'Keefe; the "Blah, Blah, Blah" LP successfully introduced this forty-year old to a rock audience hardly born when he was paying the dues. As his long-time collaborator David Bowie has proven, it can be a godsend. A good song sung by one who should know, "Real Wild Child (Wild One)" can be deemed sufficiently surreal as Iggy graces the pages of *The Face* in the middle-age spread.

The Go-Betweens are another who have come a long way from Punk and 1976. A more meandering route perhaps when compared with Iggy's but a difficult one all the same. Popular success has constantly eluded them in Australia, in spite of brief flings "Spring Rain", "Bachelor Kisses" and "Cattle And Cane". They have excelled again with the beautiful, charming and definitely Pop song "Right Here" (True Tone/PolyGram); their new member Amanda Brown makes a bright contribution to an already vivacious tune. Having run away with our hearts with "Liberty Belle & The Black Diamond Express" (according to last year's WORON straw poll), they will be back to entertain about June; in the meantime, this... tantalising teaser must suffice.

Rowing Report

—THE DISHER CUP

CAN ANU BEAT ARMY FOR 13TH SUCCESSIVE YEAR?

The Disher Cup was described last year by "Australian Rowing" magazine as Australia's answer to the Oxford/Cambridge race. It commemorates, like the inter-state King's Cup, the 1919 win by the Australian Forces crew at the Henley peace regatta. The 5km race between ANU and the Royal Military College, Duntroon has been won for the last twelve years by ANU, but often only by a narrow margin. The race is never a foregone conclusion. ANU has been lucky enough to retain six of last year's winning crew, but has lost former Dutch national representative Juri Gerretsen. The university eight now consists of:

Bow: M. Hagbeck
2 J. Pirie
3 W. Minchin
4 D. Griffiths
5 J. Wilford
6 I Viney
7 B. Gier
8 B. Oswald
Cox: A. Butler (Coach P. Wiseman)

The race starts at 4.30 on Tuesday 14 April. The start line is next to Spinnaker Island. The race is best seen from Commonwealth Avenue Bridge and King's Avenue Bridge. The finish is beside the pavilion in Grevillea Park. (See map in last rowing report). ANU row in white and blue, RMC in dark blue with red trim.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

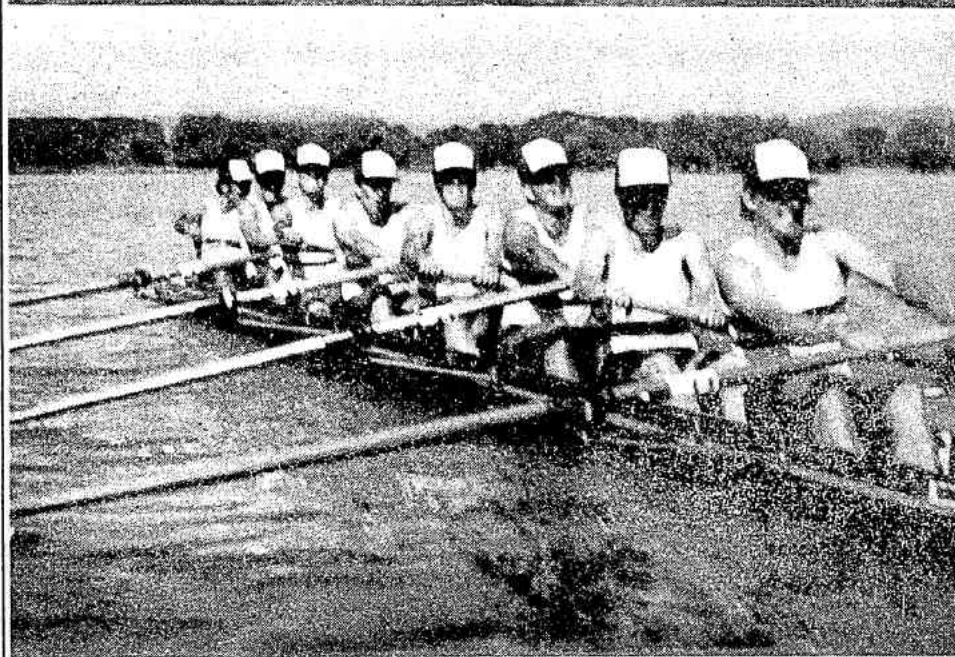
ANU rowers won two national titles this year. The ANU Lightweight four, with CRC rower R. Bettel substituting for N. Hunter who was unfit, won the men's light fours championship. ANU sculler J. Ellett rowed in a mixed club crew to win the women's quad sculls. Another ANU student, the world champion rower J. Galloway rowed in the NSW eight but came second in the King's Cup. Hunter's illness also cost ANU an almost certain win in the men's light pairs. Hutner and Haves made a brave effort, but managed only third place.

STOP PRESS!!

LATE NEWS:

ANU WINS DISHER CUP

The ANU eight has retained the Disher Cup with its 13th successive victory over RMC. WORONI's on-the-spot reporter, ANU Cox Annabel Butler reports that the ANU won in a race record time. But it wasn't so easy. Duntroon recorded its best time for the event and in fact won the start by about 1/2 a length. But a concerted effort by the ANU rowers had them level by the hospital and by Commonwealth Bridge had opened up a lead that was never headed. ANU then went on to win by over two lengths.



CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Cross country skiing is the boom winter sport in Australia. It has rapidly expanded over the last five years to the extent that it is now one of the fastest growing sports in the country.

It is a sport for everyone. Cross country skiers come from all walks of life, from students to homemakers to business people. They are all attracted by the extremely enjoyable nature of the sport that arouses your level of fitness and at the same time allows you to appreciate the beauty of our Snowy Mountains, not just one hill.

The Nordic (Cross Country) Committee of the NSW Ski Association has sent WORONI a copy of the Australian Ski Federation Cross Country Race Calendar for 1987. We have published the next few months' events here and watch this space for details of the rest of the winter months' activities in future WORONIS.

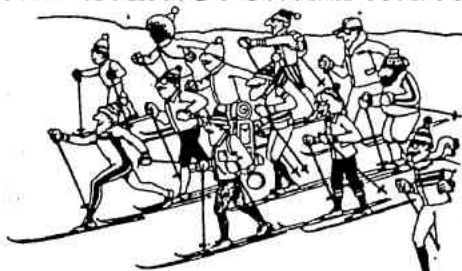
Also, if you're in Sydney in May, go along to the Cross Country Ski Carnival at Macquarie Uni on the 17th (see ad.). This event will draw a huge crowd and is a must for cross country skiers.

CROSS COUNTRY SKI CARNIVAL

Sunday, May 17 - 10a.m. - 3p.m.
Macquarie University Gymnasium

(ENTER OFF CULLODEN ROAD, MARSFIELD)

FUN AND EVENTS FOR ALL THE FAMILY



- Equipment Displays - Tents, Skis, Clothing, Bikes, Canoes
- Fitness Tests • Latest Films and Video • Waxing Demonstrations
- Roller Skiing • Ski Training Track • Climbing and Abseiling
- Archery • Trampolines • Search, Rescue and Survival Display
- 5Km X.C. Footrace Starts 11a.m. • 400m Ski Race - Prizes All Age Groups - Starts 2p.m. (Old X.C. Skis on Grass)
- All 1987 Information - Courses, Tours, Races
- BBQ Facilities - Food and Drink Available
- National Parks & Wildlife Display • Raffle - Great Prizes

ENTRY BY RAFFLE TICKET

GIANT SPORTING EQUIPMENT SALE

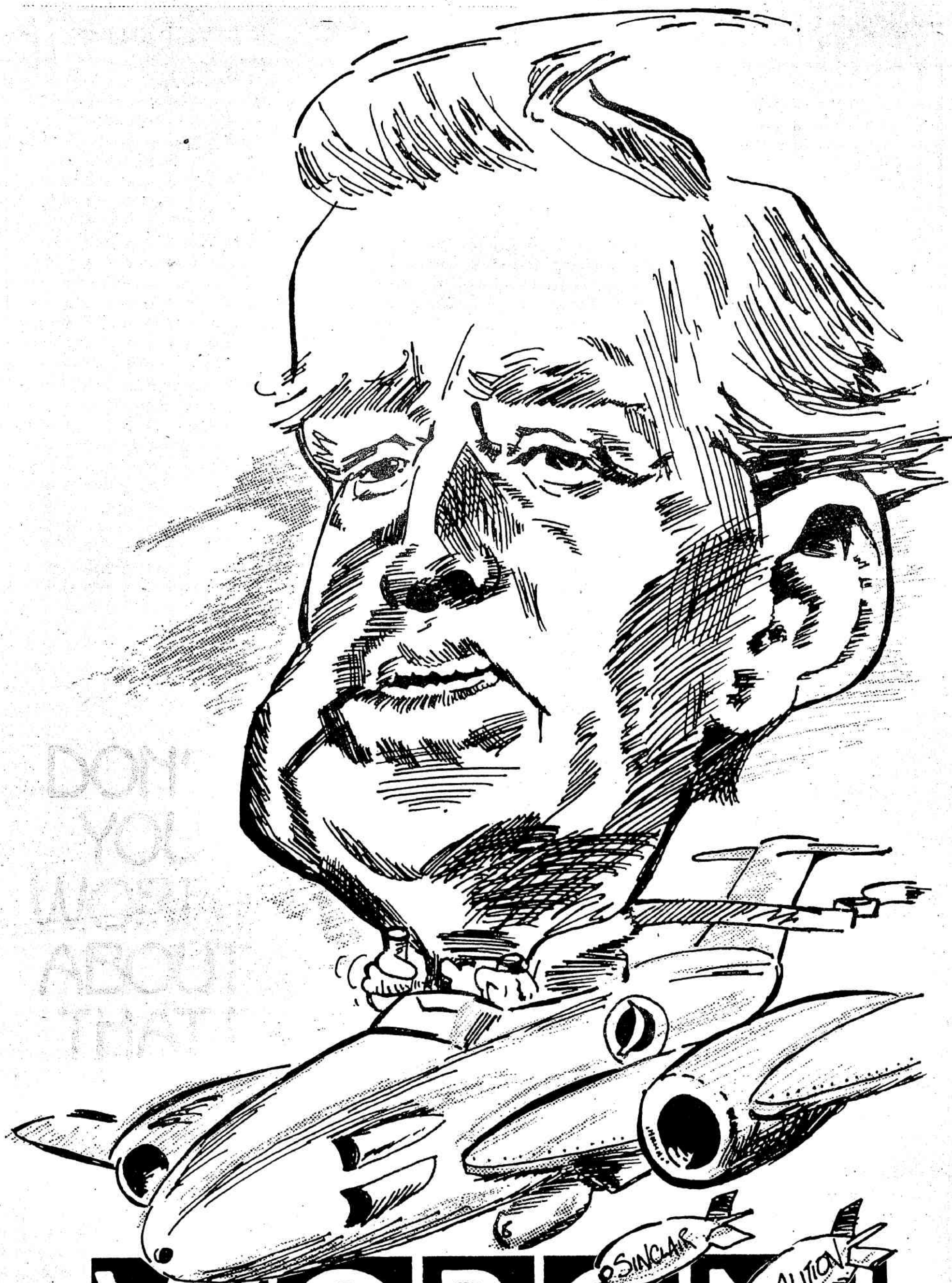
Bring your skis, bikes, canoes or any sporting gear you want to sell. Or come along to browse and buy.

(Equipment for sale received on Saturday afternoon or before 10a.m. Sunday)

N.S.W. SKI ASSOCIATION CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE

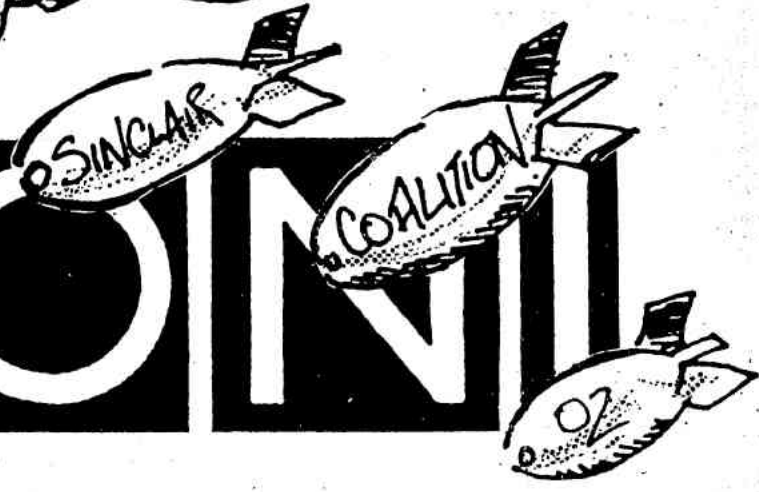
ASF CROSS COUNTRY RACE CALENDAR 1987

- Sun 5 April
Victorian Rollerski Race.
Westerfold Park
Contact: P. Tunaley (03)7621347
- Interstate Rollerski Relay 4 x 7km, 2pm
Canberra
Contact: D. La Porte (062) 865213
- Sat. 9 May
Victorian Rollerski Race
Westerfold Park
Contact: P. Tunaley (03) 7621347
- Sun. 10 May
Australian Rollerski Championships
18km, 10am
Canberra
Contact: as above
- Sun 31
NSW Rollerski Championships, 10am
Mrs Mac. Chair
Contact: D. Timms (02) 447384
- Sat 29 June
Junior Races, 1pm
Perisher
Contact: NSWSA (02)664995
- Sun. 29 June
Perisher Valley Tour 10km 11am
Perisher
Contact: as above.

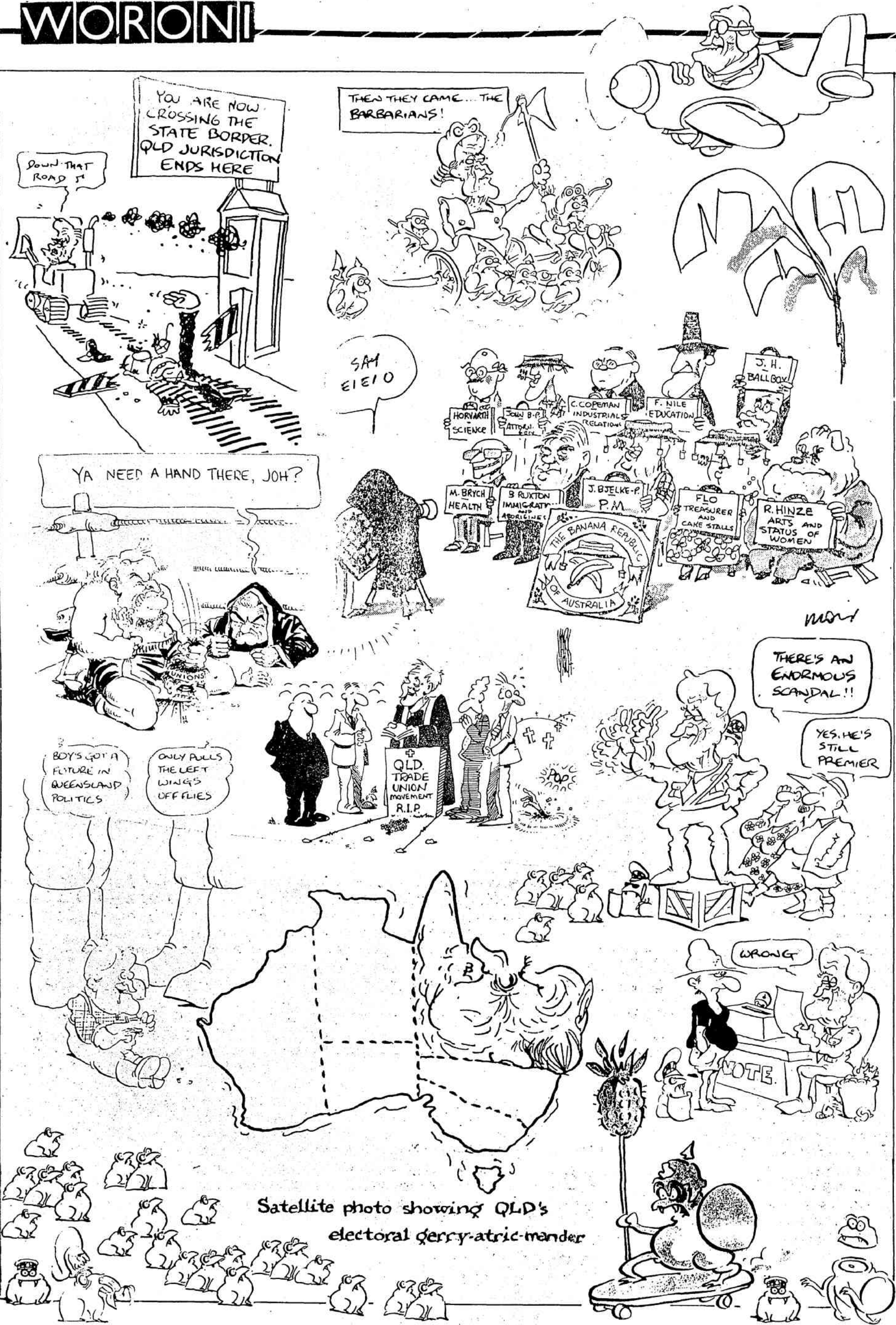


DO YOU
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W O R O N I



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Thursday 16 April 1987

JOH - A Socialist View



It would be a mistake to take Joh Bjelke-Petersen lightly. After all, the Reagan experience shows that capitalists will accept doddering old fools, as their political leaders as long as those leaders implement right-wing policies and attack the working class.

The Australian ruling class is clearly divided over its approach to the continuing economic crisis. There are basically two variants on the wage-cutting theme.

One is the Hawke Labor Government's approach - to attack workers and their wages and conditions through a process of "consensus". In other words, Hawke is cutting wages and redistributing wealth to the ruling class by getting the Simon Creans of the world to agree to such actions.

The other approach is a full frontal attack on the working class. Mudginberri, Dollar Sweets and SEQEB are all examples of this approach. The only reason these actions were successful was because the trade union bureaucrats like Crean and Kelty sat on their hands and did nothing (like bringing out other workers) in each case.

Bjelke-Petersen represents this more confrontationalist element in the ruling class. And the acquiescence of the trade union leadership to attack on wages and conditions has only emboldened Bjelke-Petersen and the like to further attack the working class.

Bjelke-Petersen also has appeal to some workers. This is not surprising. Hawke and Co have been telling us lies for years about the need to slash

government spending and cut wages. Bjelke-Petersen pushes the same line, he just has a different way of doing it. So it's the right-wing Labor Government, through its actions and policies which has laid the groundwork for Bjelke-Petersen.

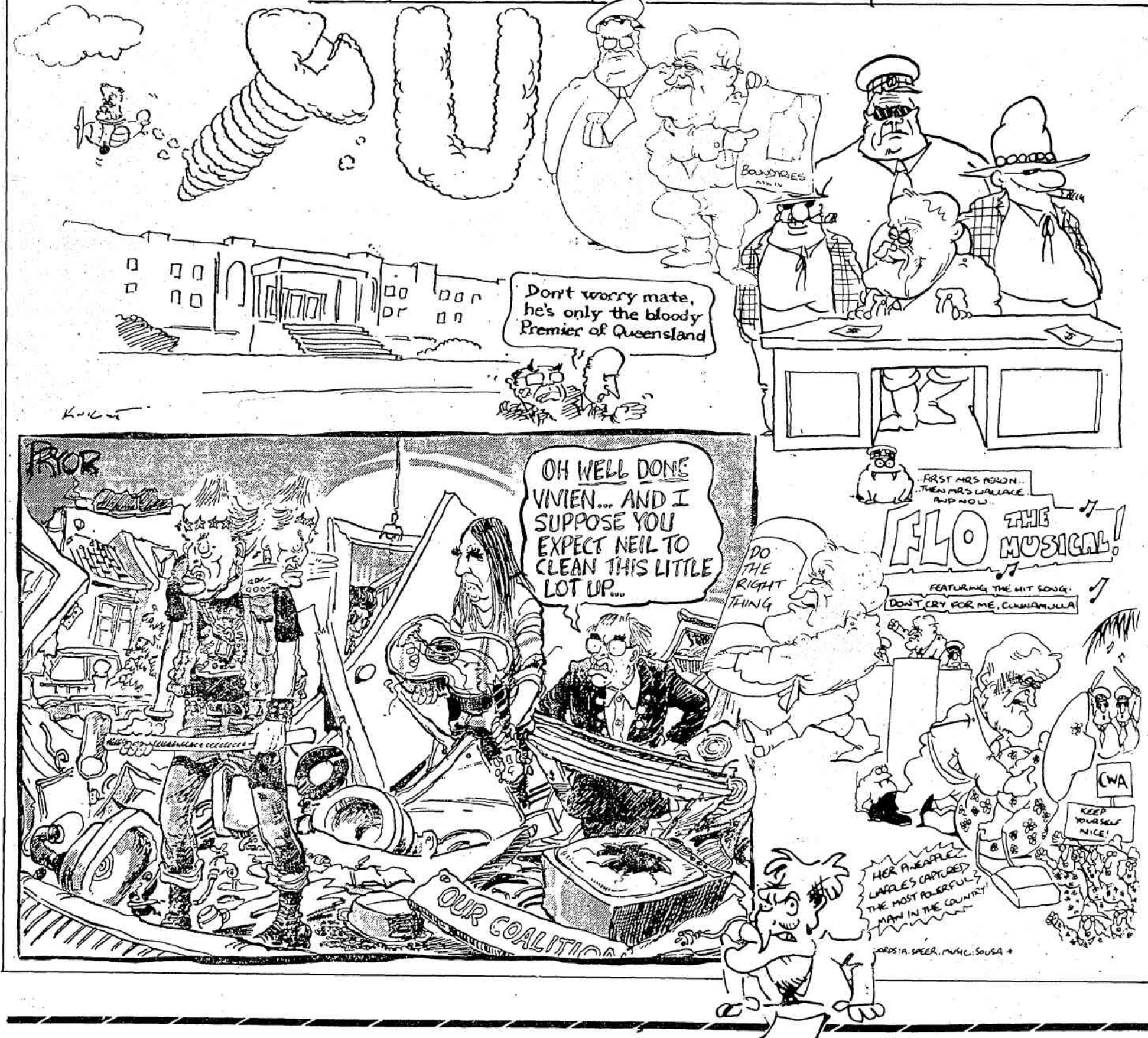
The way to beat Bjelke-Petersen is to fight back. For example, SEQEB workers could have won, if the dispute had been spread. In fact, Bjelke-Petersen was backpedalling when Municipal Officers Association members took action in support of the SEQEB workers and virtually blacked out large parts of Queensland.

But Bjelke-Petersen is not the only enemy. The Labor Government will use him as a propaganda tool. It is the classic hard cop, soft cop routine. "If you think we are bad," Hawke will say, "Bjelke-Petersen is worse."

It is a fraud. Workers need to fight both Hawke and Petersen in their wage-cutting and union attacks. That means taking strike action to defend wages and conditions, no matter which variant of the ruling class - whether it be Hawke, Howard or Bjelke-Petersen - happens to be in power. Only that way can the New Right of Hawke and Bjelke-Petersen be rolled back.

The response of workers at Robe River - five week strike - stopped one of the leaders of the New Right, Charles Copeman, in his tracks. It is a lesson all students, and workers could learn as

they face attacks from Hawke and the threat of more from Bjelke-Petersen and/or John Howard. Socialist Action



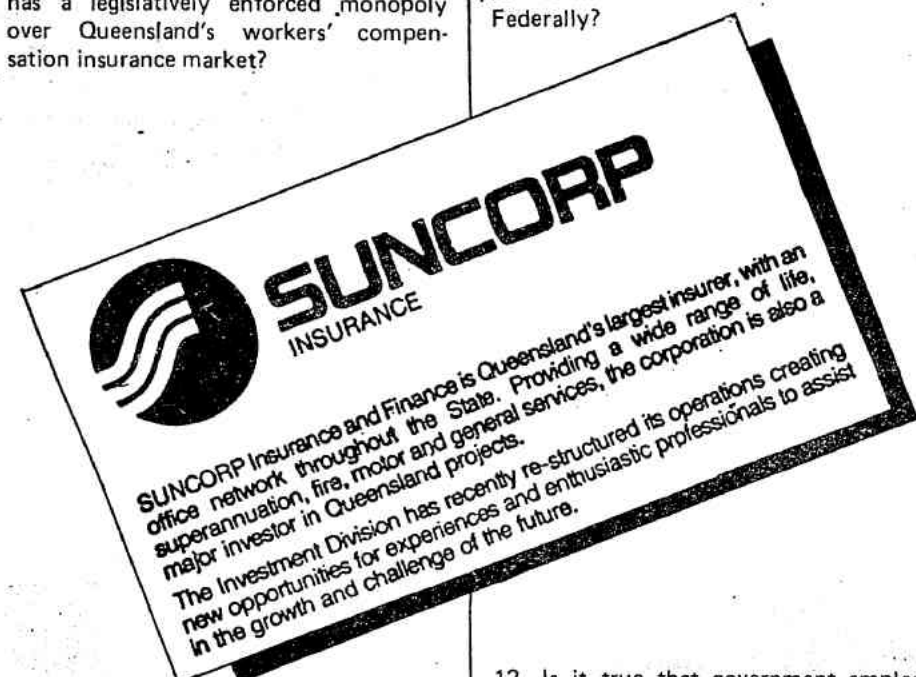
JOH - A Rational View

The Federal Member for Curtin, Mr Allan Rocher, recently issued "Forty One Questions for the 'Joh Party' ". These questions expose the view that the Premier of Queensland is not a fascist, as some think but rather an Agrarian Socialist.

The Marketplace

1. Is it true that the Queensland government owned SUNCORP, a sprawling \$2.6 billion corporation with interests in banking, finance, building societies, money markets, securities trading, stock-broking and property, is the largest Queensland based financial and capital investment body?

2. Is it true that SUNCORP, formerly the State Government Insurance Office has a legislatively enforced monopoly over Queensland's workers' compensation insurance market?



3. Is it true that SUNCORP owns major interests in Queensland private sector companies such as Evans Deakin, Kern Corporation, the Queensland Cement and Lime Company and QUF Industries?

4. Is it true that of the sixty or so Queensland based industrial companies traded on the Queensland Stock Exchange, all but 15 include SUNCORP among their largest shareholders?

5. Is it true that Sir Joh's government bought out the formerly private Bank of Queensland and established a State Bank in its place?

6. Is it true that the Queensland Opposition Leader commended Sir Joh on his establishment of the Queensland Industry Development Corporation saying "I congratulate the government on recognising true socialist enterprise because that is exactly what the QIDC is . . . the proposed QIDC is taken straight out of Labor policy"?

7. Is it true that so extensive are the holdings of SUNCORP and so determined is it to use its government legislated powers, that last year the Life Insurance Federation of Australia was moved to complain about "the recent practice" whereby SUNCORP has been forcing major companies in which it had significant shareholdings to transfer existing superannuation business away from private business to SUNCORP itself.

II Compulsory Unionism

8. Is it true that in a major state enterprise such as the State Railways Department, recruits have to sign an agreement consenting to join a union?

9. Is it true that the Queensland government continues to act as a union paymaster for the collection of union fees?

10. Is it true that the Queensland government could have given workers protection from enforced unionism but has never done so?

III The 'Public' Sector

11. Is it true that in the years since the National Party began to govern in its own right (i.e. since October 1983) public service numbers have grown more in Queensland than every other State and Federally?

12. Is it true that government employment in Queensland jumped 11.1 percent between December 1983 and September 1986?

13. Is it true that this figure compares with 10.3 percent in Labor governed Victoria; 6.8 percent in Labor governed Western Australia; 4.5 percent in Labor governed NSW; 4.1 percent in Labor governed South Australia; 5.2 percent for Labor's federal government and only 2.8 percent in Liberal governed Tasmania?

IV Government Spending and Taxing

14. Is it true that Queensland has experienced a faster growth in outlays and total State revenues per capita than any other State and a faster rate of growth in net Federal payments per capita than the average for all Australian States.

15. Is it true that Queensland is increasing revenue from all State sources (including net operating surpluses of State business undertakings, property income, fees, fines and State taxes) faster than any other State?

16. Is it true that according to the Queensland Treasury, total taxation in Queensland rose from \$364.5 million to \$438 million, an increase of 20.2 percent from July/November 1984 to July/November 1986?

17. Is it true that adjusting for a Brisbane CPI rise of 15.7 percent over that same period, there was a real growth of 4.5 percent in Queensland taxes?

18. Is it true that while the Bureau of Statistics figures show Queensland having the lowest level of State taxes per head of population, at around \$552.35c, these figures do not include such taxes as the rail freight surcharge on mining companies which when included takes Queensland's figure to \$705.82c making it higher than the Labor governed States of South Australia (\$625.96c) and Western Australia (\$670.36c) and Liberal governed Tasmania (\$560.56)?

19. Is it true that \$394 million in hidden tax was obtained from the rail freight surcharge paid by mining companies in 1985/86?

V Public Debt

20. Is it true that Queensland has the highest public sector budget deficit of any State?

21. Is it true that each man, woman and child in Queensland has a public debt of \$4,145 hanging over them?

22. Is it true that in 1985 every Queenslanders contributed \$967 to meet interest costs?

23. Is it true that Queensland's State Government deficit has risen from \$391 million to a total of \$1703 million in the past five years?

24. Is it true that the size of Queensland's deficit, which Sir Joh maintains does not exist, is estimated at \$625 million for 1986-87?

25. Is it true that investment bankers Salomon Brothers estimate that between 1982 and 1986, Queensland's total public debt increased by 77 percent and that Salomon Brothers estimate that between 1982 and 1985 Queensland government and public sector borrowings grew by 60 percent from \$6 billion to about \$9.6 billion?

VI Government Regulation

26. Is it true that in Queensland, government regulatory activity abounds?

27. Is it true that the price of eggs is fixed, and their marketing controlled by two boards?

28. Is it true that the price of milk is fixed by the Queensland Milk Board, which also controls production, collection, carriage delivery, storage, preservation and distribution?

29. Is it true that peanut marketing is controlled by the Peanut Marketing Board which collects, cleans, stores, shells, grades and markets all peanuts in the State?

30. Is it true that in the 10 years 1969 to 1979, (during all of which Sir Joh was Premier) the Queensland government introduced 4,494 sets of regulations?

31. Is it true that according to the Confederation of Australian Industry, this was an Australian record; and that the trend continues?

32. Is it true that recent industry analysis shows the cost of over-regulation in Queensland at around \$250 million a year?

33. Is it true that Queensland has more Qangos than any other State?

34. Is it true that Sir Joh's government tried to stabilise what it described as an "orderly and efficient system for the production distribution, and sale of bread"?

35. Is it true that under Sir Joh's plan the State would have been divided into zones, bakers been given franchises and the right to set minimum prices?

36. Is it also true that under Sir Joh's plan, consumers could have been fined up to \$1,000 if they refused to say where they bought the bread from?

37. Is it true that Queensland abounds with other equally ridiculous examples of agrarian socialism?

VII Development

38. Is it true that if all the projects announced by Sir Joh and his National Party associates over the years had gone ahead, there would have been an extra \$40 billion invested in Queensland creating 90,000 jobs directly and around 300,000 jobs indirectly?

39. Is it true that a brief list of these phantom and failed projects includes:

- * A BMW car plant in Brisbane
- * Port Petersen, Petersen city and an accompanying power station
- * Bribie coal port
- * Bundaberg coal port
- * Brisbane Mini Steel Mills
- * Quest Corporation Mini Steel Mill Proposal - after five months it was bailed out by the Government to the tune of \$27 million and in the end the bid failed completely.

40. Is it true that if all the promised projects had gone ahead the 100,000 Queenslanders who are out of work would all have jobs and that an additional 500 people per day would have to be imported to meet labour demands?

41. Is it true that Queenslanders' average incomes have fallen from 92 percent of the Australian average in 1979/80 to 90 percent in 1984/85?

VII

The answer to every one of those forty one questions is YES.

The simple fact is that while some people admire Sir Joh for his declared views, with certain rare and commendable exceptions, his actions are in complete contradiction to his words.

Governments are elected to act and not simply to speak. Joh's Queensland is not a model for the kind of economic and social reforms Australia desperately needs.